December 2019

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Special Points of Interest:
Santa Sock Hop on Dec. 6th
Cookie Walk on Dec. 14th
Advent Worship 7pm
Wed. Dec. 4th, 11th & 18th
Children’s Christmas Service on Dec. 15th
Christmas Eve Worship at 5pm & 7pm
on Dec. 24th
Christmas Day Worship at 10:15am
on Dec. 25th

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’
Acts 20:35

“These words of our Lord are often quoted at this time of year to remind us that the Christmas season is not just about getting gifts. We should be about giving as well. But they also remind me of the fact that we are first and foremost receivers. After all, how can one give unless one has first received? And oh how we have received! It would take an eternity for us to list all the good gifts that God has given to us, and another eternity for us to rightly thank God for all that he has given. God is the greatest giver and the one who is blessed above all. No one can out-give God. And the greatest gift of all is the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son…” (John 3:16)

Along with the gift of the Savior, our heavenly Father also gives us every good gift for our physical, spiritual and eternal life. And so we come to him during this season (and every season) first to receive his good gifts in his Word and in the Sacraments. There he promises and delivers to his people the blessings which Christ won as a result of his first advent among us and assures us of more and greater blessings that will be ours when he comes again. With the Psalmist we say, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” (Psalm 103:2)

But any proper response to our Lord’s great blessings would not be complete apart from sharing those blessings with others, especially those in need during this cold and dark time of the year. My heart rejoices to see the many ways that our congregation gives to those in need, not only in November and December, but all throughout the year. As I write this, we have members giving of their time at Feed My Starving Children. Almost every week we have people serving at there. We also are blessed to partner with Blessing Bench in Joliet. We support Stars of Hope for Morningstar Mission. We are collecting coats and other winter wear. At other times of the year we collect school supplies for kids. We make quilts that keep people warm. The youth collected socks in October and made blankets for homeless people in downtown Chicago in November. And there are so many other ways in which we are blessed to give as a congregation and as individuals.

We have received so much, even with the needs that each of us have. May this December be a time for you to experience the blessing of giving. May your hearts overflow with thankfulness as you recount all the blessings that your heavenly Father has poured out so richly upon you. May he provide opportunities for you to be a blessing to others. And may you be filled with joy as you hear the good news of the Savior’s birth this Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you all,
Pastor Ryden

The cross symbolizes the hope Christians have in Christ and the firm faith which keeps Christians steady in the storms of life. These ideas are based on Hebrews 6:19 which reads: “We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain.” (NRSV).
Through the Bible in a Year

1. Romans 5-8   11. Hebrews 1-4
2. Romans 9-11  12. Hebrews 5-7
3. Romans 12-16 13. Hebrews 8-10
5. Acts 23-25   15. Philemon 1 Peter 1,2
7. Ephesians 1-3 17. 2 Peter 1-3
8. Ephesians 4-6 18. 1 Timothy 1-3
9. Philippians 1-4 19. 1 Timothy 4-6
10. Colossians 1-4 20. Titus 1-3
21. 2 Timothy 1-4
22. 1 John 1,2
23. 1 John 3-5
24. 2 John, 3 John, Jude
25. Revelation 1-3
26. Revelation 4-6
27. Revelation 7-9
28. Revelation 10-12
29. Revelation 13-15
30. Revelation 16-18
31. Revelation 19-22

Tips on Reading the Bible

1. Start today - There is no better time, and there’s no reason to wait.

2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your schedule, and then stick to it. Mornings are great, but feel free to use any time that works consistently for you.

3. Read for the sake of learning, not simply to accomplish your next reading. Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking for Him to give you wisdom and understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!

Contacting
Pastor Ryden or Kari Rieuf

When contacting:
PASTOR RYDEN:
Church: 815-741-2428
Cell Phone: 815-351-2922
E-Mail: pastorryden@shorewoodhopelutheran.org

KARI RIEUF-Youth Minister:
Church: 815-741-2428
Cell Phone: 815-355-HOPE (4673)
E-Mail: hopeyouth@shorewoodhopelutheran.org
In Our Prayers

Pastor & Mrs. Tessaro - LBT missionaries in Nigeria

All of the service men and women, especially:
   Zachary Klima - US Air Force - stationed in San Antonio, TX
   Corporal Abigail Kassab - Parris Island Marine Band
   Jason Wilck (grandson of Hannelore Wilck) at Fort Stewart, GA
   Scott Meskimen (cousin of Tom & Melanie Mikuta) - USAF stationed at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi
   Lt. William Shanahan (son of Mike & Kim Shanahan)- Marine serving in Afghanistan
   Sam Berg (nephew of Steve & Stephanie Fuller) - US Navy on-the-job training at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, VA
   Reiss DeSandre (nephew of Sally DeSandre & Kathy Wright) US Army
   Lance Corporal Trevor Zukauskas - US Marine, soon to be deployed overseas.
   Petty Officer Joey Sheppard - stationed in Port Hueneme, CA
   Eli Fuller (nephew of Steve & Stephanie Fuller) Army National Guard - being deployed to Afghanistan in March 2019
   Jeremy Visnevac - US Marine - Camp Pendleton, CA

All Shut-Ins, especially:
   Dr. Bob Dahms - at Sunrise
   Barb Biller - at home
   Emma Bill - at Alden
   Shirley Jacksa - at Rock Run Place
   Linda Stone - at home
   Dolores Kucera - at home
   Leona Schmidt - at home
   Ruth Roch - at Westchester
   Adelaide Holm - at Senior Star
   Mary Jean White-at home
   Shirley Patchett - Solstice

Kim Ryden - recovering from a procedure (11/1/19)
Toni Coble (Client of Annamariaa Atkinson) stage 4 pancreatic & liver cancer (11/4/19)
Stephanie Fuller - still being evaluated for neurological issues (11/4/19)
Jack and Mary Fuller (Steve Fuller’s parents) in a nursing home dealing with several medical issues, especially Jack’s progressive lung disease. (11/6/19)
Duane (husband of a Facebook marketplace contact) health concerns (11/8/19)
Joe (Stephanie Fjeldheim’s uncle) bladder cancer - chemo treatments (11/21/19)
Becky Jasinski (Mike & Kari Rieuf’s sister-in-law) - leiomyosarcoma - treatment for recurring tumors (11/22/19)
Sandy C. (Cherie Sieger’s friend) illness (11/24/19)
Aaron Smith & family (Jon & Wendy Forsberg’s friend) diagnosed with ALS (11/27/19)
June Worley (Kim Ryden’s grandmother) recovering from double bypass surgery (11/27/19)
Italy Wallace (Annamariaa Atkinson’s daughter) unspoken prayer request (12/2/19)

We extend our Christian sympathies to the family of Brad and Arlene Sorensen upon the death of Arlene’s father Michael Bostrom.

We extend our Christian sympathies to John and Marsha Herrington on the death of John’s sister Mary Marso.

We extend our Christian sympathies to Jay Bergman and family on the death of his mother Leona Bergman.

We extend our Christian sympathies to Lynn Slykas and family on the death of Lynn’s father.

We extend our Christian sympathies to Rev. Bill and Kim Ryden on the death of Kim’s aunt Grace.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servant, and give your power of healing to those who minister to his needs, that he may be strengthened in his weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
December Birthday Wishes to . . .

Robert Poland 12/1
Hannelore Wilck 12/3
Kelli Giese 12/6
Dave Sandei 12/6
Callie Carr 12/7
Nick Ramey 12/8
Angela Poland 12/10
Tom Mikuta 12/11
Kensington Pilon 12/11
Anthony Bukauskas 12/12
Robert Dills 12/12
Joanna Pilon 12/13
Noah Hargreave 12/14
LeRoy Rosenbach 12/16
Holly Kerwin 12/17
Curt Kaun 12/19
Laura Bellettini 12/20
Steven Bellettini 12/20
Jonah Bellettini 12/20
Joel Klima 12/20
Carter Pankiewicz 12/20
Jacob Stytz 12/20
Taryn Jeanette Sandei 12/21
Robert Cagann 12/22
Anthony Petrilla 12/22
Noelle Klima 12/25
Al Checca 12/27
Craig Pankiewicz 12/28
Stephanie Jeras 12/28
Jana Gautschy 12/29
Michael Macko 12/29
Jeffrey S. Petrilla 12/30
Dwight Sieger 12/31
Michael Fisher 12/31

Birthday Prayer - Father in heaven we come to you today thanking you for (insert name). We are glad that you have brought us together and allowed us to know (insert name). On this day we ask for your special blessing and a day filled with hope, joy and optimism. We pray that this coming year might be one that will bring personal success and fulfillment and accomplishment for (insert name). Father we know that you delight in blessing your children and so we ask for this. May we all be grateful for your goodness. This we ask in the name of our loving Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

ALTAR FLOWERS

The calendar is posted in the Narthex so don’t miss out on getting your special occasion listed. Your name and occasion will be printed in the bulletin. Every week the Altar flowers are delivered fresh. The cost is $40 for the weekend. Please place a separate check or cash in your weekly offering envelope and mark it Altar flowers or simply place the offering in a separate envelope but don’t forget to put your name and mark it Altar flowers. Thank you for helping to decorate the Altar!

Happy Anniversary

Anthony and Kelli Giese 12/3
Donna and Robert Dills 12/6
Michael and Evie Savage 12/7
Andres and Jennifer Fragoso 12/11
Barb and Terrance Miller 12/28

May God continue to bless these Marriages.
Dear fellow members of Hope,

I have been reminding everyone (since December 26, 2018) that “it’s almost Christmas”--much to their chagrin. Each and every year I see people panic over all of the details as we approach this Christian holiday despite the fact that we know that it is celebrated EVERY YEAR on the same day—perhaps not with all of the accoutrements, but at least the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, our Lord and Savior!

God sent His one and only Son to us as the perfect gift that could never be outdone! Last month I suggested remembering all of the ways in which He “gifts us” and continues to provide for us. This month, I want to be sure that you know of a treasure that we have right here at Hope—the CHURCH LIBRARY! I was taking a quick look at Questions Kids Ask About God by Pastor David Hedlin and wondered how many of you don’t realize the treasure trove that exists in one small room?

The question “What does God’s handwriting look like?” was answered with “God doesn’t use pencils, paper or a computer. Instead, God inspires people. He gives us the ability to tell others about him. We do that by writing, drawing, singing, and sometimes just by talking! People are sort of like God’s handwriting.”

During this Christmas season, I hope that you and your family take time to remember the REASON for the SEASON; that you rejoice in wishing others a “MERRY CHRISTMAS;” and that you and your family experience the love, mercy, peace, and comfort that only HE can bring!

MERRY CHRISTMAS from me and my family to you and yours!

May you blessed with a HAPPY NEW YEAR, too!

Kari

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40th Anniversary Events Schedule

We still have a number of magnets that contain the list of events and dates over the next year for Hope’s extended 40th Anniversary Celebration. You can pick one up at the Visitor’s Center table in the narthex.

One per family, please.
I had a conversation with Pastor a couple of months ago about my granddaughter. She had not been to church in a very long time and one Sunday she was waiting in the parking lot and when she saw us knocked on the window. She said she doesn't know why but something pulled her to church that day. She said she woke up and just knew church is where she should be that morning. Pastor told me that God was "messing with her."

I have thought a lot about that conversation and wondered how many times God was messing with me. How many times He messes with all of us in our own unique way. I thought about all the people that Blessing Bench serves and wonder if they ever think God is messing with them. I wanted to share this and hopefully give everyone something to think about. While you are thinking, remember all the people in our community that need someone to help them in this season and throughout the year. Blessing Bench is requesting cereal, soap, shampoo, canned fruit, and applesauce for this month.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to help Blessing Bench Food Pantry.

Jo Gast

"little by little, a little becomes A LOT - Tanzanian Proverb"
Realizing that gifts of others are a blessing to us each and every day – let’s pause and give thanks for these Stewards of Hope! We encourage you to thank them in your own special way as well.

Susan Steinhauer & Cathy Wernli

Thank you Susan and Cathy for all the things you do throughout the year especially for serving as Deacon during worship as well as attending and setting up the Timbers services once a month.

--Nominated by appreciative members of Hope!

If you would like to nominate a Steward of Hope for recognition of time and talents – please email stewardsofhope365@gmail.com

Table Tennis Anyone?

A big thank you to the Men’s Group for purchasing a new ping-pong table for the game room downstairs. Check it out and let the challenges to Pastor Ryden begin!
How are we to be stewards of Christmas and the Christmas season? Is that even possible? Is that something we’re supposed to do?

Think about it this way: the Christmas story, the story of God with us, God’s love for us in human flesh, Jesus our Messiah - that’s pure Gospel! And yes, we are to be faithful stewards of the Gospel.

How? By following God’s will, sharing the Gospel, fulling His purposes, bringing Him glory. Specifically, right now, we need to keep Christ in Christmas and encourage other to do so also. After all Jesus is the reason for the season and the best CHRISTmas gift ever!

Christmas blessings from the Stewardship Board!
DON’T MISS THE

SANTA SOCK

HOP!

Friday, Dec. 6th
Shorewood Hope Lutheran Church
305 E. Black Rd Shorewood, IL

This year’s event includes a special performance by

Tickets are only $5.00 each!!

TICKET INCLUDES:
Magic Show, free magic trick, visit with Santa, slice of pizza, sweet treat and drink, and lots of fun line dancing and karaoke to both popular and Christmas music! Contact the church at 815-741-2428 to arrange ticket purchase.

It is HIGHLY suggested to buy tickets in advance, as there will only be a limited number of tickets available at the door the night of the event.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
6-7pm Magic Show with Mr. Magico. Every child brings home a free magic trick!!
7-9pm Slice of pizza/sweet treat/drink
Visit with Santa
Karaoke/Dancing
Games in the Gym

*Additional Concessions and pizza will be available for purchase separately.

AT LEAST 1 ADULT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR GROUP FOR CHILDREN AGES 12 AND UNDER. ALL AGES WELCOME!
GET YOUR COOKIE SHEETS READY!

It’s time again to start baking for the Hope Lutheran Church Holiday Cookie Walk!!

DECEMBER 14TH 9AM-12PM

Look for a sign-up sheet under ‘Circle of Friendship’ starting in November.

The Circle of Friendship has decided to donate ALL of the proceeds from the Cookie Walk to the “New Organ Fund”. So we will not only need your baking talents, but hope you will buy cookies for gift giving!!

Contact Cherie Sieger with any questions – 773-259-3403 or cesieger@gmail.com

WINTER COATS & COLD-WEATHER ACCESSORIES (HATS, GLOVES, MITTENS, AND SCARVES) ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED FOR THOSE IN NEED!
Please bring new and/or gently used items to Hope for distribution as needs are made known.

TREE DECORATING: is set for Sunday, Dec. 1st after 10:15 worship. Get in the festive mood as we decorate the church for Christmas!

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IT’S POINSETTIA TIME!

This Christmas we are presenting you with an opportunity to remember a living or deceased family member or friend by paying for a Poinsettia Plant that will be used to decorate our Church this Christmas. The cost of the plants are as follows:

Red Poinsettia plant - $14.00

The name of the person you have remembered will be printed in the bulletin at Christmas time. Please fill out the order form below and place the completed order form and payment in an envelope marked “Poinsettia Payment” and place in offering or turn it into the church office no later than December 15th, in order for the names to appear in the bulletin.

Please make check payable to Hope Lutheran Church

POINSETTIA ORDERS

I wish to remember the following person by paying for a Poinsettia Plant that will be used to decorate our church this Christmas.

YOUR NAME:___________________________

PERSON TO BE LISTED:___________________________

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

Living:___________ Deceased:___________

Enclosed is my donation of $_______________

($14.00 for each poinsettia)

Cash___________ or Check #:_____________

Feed My Starving Children

Dates to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora are scheduled for Dec. 13th, & 26th & 30th (8:30am-12:30pm); and Dec. 16th (11am-3pm). Please meet at Hope at the starting time listed. We are back by the ending time (unless we stop for tacos)! We are always looking for people to join us! Please sign up on the Youth Board.
Holiday Meals

Again this year, Hope Lutheran Church is teaming with the Shorewood Jewel-Osco to raise money for holiday meals that will be distributed to less fortunate families. We are looking for volunteers to man a collection table at the store, asking shoppers to contribute money toward the meals. If you can help us by working a 3-4 hour shift, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the narthex.

2019 Holiday Schedule

Advent Worship Schedule
Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule
Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00pm
Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00pm

Christmas Day Worship Schedule
Wednesday, December 25th at 10:15am

New Years’ Eve & Day
No Services
PLEASE SAVE PLASTIC LIDS AND CAPS FROM ANY AND ALL CONTAINERS. (These will be taken to JJC where they will be sent on to be made into outdoor benches.) Look for a new collection bin soon!

From this

[Image of bottle caps]

To this

[Image of a bench]

WE ALSO COLLECT POP AND BEER TABS FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE!

Children’s Christmas Program

- New time this year!

You won't want to miss Behold the Child, the children's Christmas program service at Hope on Sunday, December 15th at 10:15 am. If you normally come at 8am - sleep in and join us!! … 5pm - enjoy your evening and come in the morning!! Children will tell about Jesus' birth with joyful hearts, songs, and readings. Can't wait to see you there!!
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<th>ASSIST. MINISTER</th>
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<td>Dec. 15th 8:00am</td>
<td>Judy Wieman</td>
<td>Dwight Siger</td>
<td>Joanne Ramey/</td>
<td>Russell Jingles</td>
<td>Dec. 15th 8:00am</td>
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<td>Dec. 15th 8:00am</td>
<td>Chris Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 21st 5:00pm</td>
<td>Kari Rieuf</td>
<td>Dwight Siger</td>
<td>Joanne Ramey/</td>
<td>Russell Jingles</td>
<td>Dec. 21st 5:00pm</td>
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<td>Dec. 22nd 5:00pm</td>
<td>Judy Wieman</td>
<td>Dwight Siger</td>
<td>Joanne Ramey/</td>
<td>Russell Jingles</td>
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<td>Chris Johnson</td>
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<td>Chris Johnson</td>
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<td>Dec. 28th 5:00pm</td>
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<td>Joanne Ramey/</td>
<td>Russell Jingles</td>
<td>Dec. 28th 5:00pm</td>
<td>Dec. 28th 5:00pm</td>
<td>Dec. 28th 5:00pm</td>
<td>Chris Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 29th 8:00am</td>
<td>Kari Rieuf</td>
<td>Dwight Siger</td>
<td>Joanne Ramey/</td>
<td>Russell Jingles</td>
<td>Dec. 29th 8:00am</td>
<td>Dec. 29th 8:00am</td>
<td>Dec. 29th 8:00am</td>
<td>Chris Johnson</td>
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**In Memory**
- of Lou Kovel - Rispch
- of Andrew HIatt & Hilda Dugger - Laura Klima
- of Andrew HIatt & Hilda Dugger - Laura Klima
## December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Worship 8:00am & 10:15am  
9am Sunday School  
9am-9pm Chicago Train Trip  
4:00pm-6:00pm Boy Scouts # 738 | **2**     |           |           |           |           |           |
| **8**     |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Worship 8:00am & 10:15am  
9am Sunday School  
4:00pm-6:00pm Boy Scouts # 738 | **9**     |           |           |           |           |           |
| 5:30pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts #256  
7pm-8pm Al-anon | **10**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 11am-3pm FMSC  
5:30pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts #256  
7pm-8pm Al-anon | **11**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 10am Women’s Bible Class  
6pm-7:30pm Youth Discipleship Class | **12**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 7pm Worship | **13**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 8:30am-12:30pm FMSC  
10am-11:30am Quilt Tying  
6:00pm AA | **14**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 10:30am Timbers  
Worship 5:00pm | **15**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| Worship 8:00am  
10:15am Children’s Christmas Service  
9am Sunday School  
4:00pm-6:00pm Boy Scouts # 738 | **16**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 11am-3pm FMSC  
5:30pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts #256  
7pm-8pm Al-anon | **17**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 6:00pm AA | **18**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 10am Women’s Bible Class  
6pm-7:30pm Youth Discipleship Class | **19**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 7pm Worship | **20**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 6:00pm-8:00pm Bereaved Parents of Will County | **21**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| **22**    |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Worship 8:00am & 10:15am  
4:00pm-6:00pm Boy Scouts # 738 | **23**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 5:30pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts #256  
7pm-8pm Al-anon | **24**    | Christmas Eve |           |           |           |           |
| 5:00pm Worship  
6:00pm AA  
7:00pm Worship | **25**    | Christmas Day |           |           |           |           |
| 10:15am Worship | **26**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 8:30am-12:30pm FMSC | **27**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| **29**    |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Worship 8:00am & 10:15am  
4:00pm-6:00pm Boy Scouts # 738 | **30**    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 8:30am-12:30pm FMSC  
5:30pm-8:30pm Boy Scouts #256  
7pm-8pm Al-anon | **31**    | New Year’s Eve |           |           |           |           |
| 6:00pm AA | **32**    |           |           |           |           |           |
Church Cleaning Sponsorships Available

There are opportunities for individuals and families to sponsor a week of cleaning during the year. If interested, please sign up for an open week on the poster in the narthex, put your $20 donation into an envelope marked “Church Cleaning for the Week of _____,” and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for supporting this effort to help keep our church clean.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will give millions to churches across the country through Thrivent Choice. So please Direct Choice Dollars today. Thrivent Choice allows eligible members of Thrivent Financial to recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable dollars are distributed.

To make your direction, simply:
• Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or
• Call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say, “Thrivent Choice.”

Kari is looking for addresses of all of our COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Please get them to her personally or via e-mail: (hopeyouth@shorewoodhopelutheran.org)

Thank you!