



# Letter of Hope

# April 2017

**House of Hope Lutheran Church**  
*Living out God's grace we seek to be neighbors to all.*

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **PALM SUNDAY, April 9**

9:00 a.m. Worship with Processional of Palms  
& Communion

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 13**

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

### **GOOD FRIDAY, April 14**

12 noon & 7:00 p.m. Worship

### **HOLY SATURDAY, April 15**

7:00 p.m. Vigil of Easter

### **EASTER, APRIL 16**

9 & 10:45 a.m. Festival Services with Communion

## Capital Campaign Kick-Off

This month we officially begin our capital campaign, *"Hope Coming Together"*. Come to the forum on April 2nd where we will be sharing the details of the campaign and outline all that we will accomplish by coming together. Once again, we are investing in our own future by funding improvements to our building and property, remodeling and updating while also sharing our resources beyond our own walls. We need everybody's participation and deep commitment and look forward to celebrating the conclusion of commitment phase by early June.



This year we are doing something new—offering an Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15 at 7:00pm. The vigil bridges the time between Good Friday which celebrates the cross of Christ and Easter Sunday which celebrates the resurrection. The Easter Vigil tells the story of God's people from the beginning of time and lifts up some of the highlights of the Biblical story. It will be both joyful and meaningful!

## + **Pastor's Letter** +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

Blessings to you in this holy time of Lent as we head toward our celebration of Easter! It may seem strange that even though we already know the end of the story—Jesus survives death and rises again to new life—that we continue to mark this time each year. We do this for a variety of reasons.

One reason that we honor the time of Lent is to notice what Jesus does on the way to the cross. Jesus knows how this story ends, too. But, on the way to his death and beyond death to resurrection, Jesus stops to preach to crowds, to feed the hungry, to speak with women across gender barriers, to heal blind men, to answer questions of religious leaders stuck in their ways, to raise people from the dead, to try to explain God's great love over and over again. As Jesus does these things, so can we, too, as we head towards Easter and through our own difficulties in life, take time to speak with people, to give food and help as we can, to share God's love with our neighbors around us.

Another reason that we honor this time of Lent and Easter and all the seasons of the church year is to remember that God has a long history of being with us and walking with us as people. We hear how Jesus spoke with and healed everyday people. We hear stories from the Old Testament about God working through prophets and coming to the ordinary—Abraham and Moses and Sarah.

This year, we are excited to mark these stories of God's great love and work through ordinary people as we celebrate the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>—the night before Easter. The Easter Vigil is a time of story-telling, of remembering that God created us from the mud, remembering that God raised life from dry bones, remembering that God reached even the most difficult of people through prophets like Jonah and Isaiah and Obadiah. We'll tell these stories of God's commitment to us and God's great love for us as we build up to the greatest story: the culminating tale of Jesus coming to be with people, to die as we do, and to defeat death for us forever!

As we wait for the season of Easter, to tell the tales of the faith of the new Christians, we tell the tales of God's love for us throughout time. We hope that you can join us for the Easter Vigil and for Easter services so that we can all proclaim together "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!"

Blessings on your Easter Season,

Pastor Gretchen



### **DAY OF ACTION**

On Thursday, May 4, the entire ISAI AH organization will bring as many people as possible to talk with legislators at the Minnesota State Capitol. We will highlight issues that ISAI AH has been lifting up this year including, healthcare, immigrants, sanctuary, clean energy, racial equity, and more. We will outline and get organized at our April 30th adult forum. Come and let your voice be heard.

### **FORUMS FOR APRIL—**

- April 2 - Capital Campaign Kick-off  
*"Hope Coming Together"*
- April 9 - Special Brunch—*Palms & Pastries*
- April 16 - Easter Sunday/No Forum
- April 23 - Patrick Atkinson, *"God's Child"*  
Program (see pg. 4)
- April 30 - ISAI AH: May 4th-Action at the  
Capitol



It's April and spring is officially here but we're waiting for the weather outside to catch up with the calendar. April also means that we are entering the final stages of our Lenten Journey. It's tempting to just give the last part of Lent and Holy Week short shrift. After all, we did that last year and we'll do it again next year, what's the big deal. To me it's important that we walk with Jesus as he travels through these final stages of Lent and Holy Week. We all like to celebrate the Resurrection but that celebration doesn't mean much if we don't have the struggles leading up to it. In order to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection we must first struggle with his suffering and death. Only then does the Resurrection have real meaning!!

During the last stages of our Lenten journey our music groups provide anthems that help to tell the stories. Sunday, April 2, the Hope Chorale sings *Out of the Depths* by Paul Manz — a musical setting of the Psalm for the day; Sunday, April 9, the Hope Chorale sings *Holy* by Craig Courtney. For our Maundy Thursday worship, April 13, Hope Bells will ring *At the Table* by Jason W. Krug and *In the Shadow of the Cross* by Michael E. Akers. Good Friday, April 14, the Hope Chorale sings *We Praise Your Cross, O Christ* by Thomas Keesecker.

A "new" service for us this year is the Vigil of Easter which will be Saturday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. At this service we will prepare for Easter and all of its joy with a series of readings from the Old Testament that tell the stories of our faith. We'll respond to these stories with a variety of songs as we all celebrate together and prepare to celebrate the Resurrection the next day. At our joyful services of the Resurrection on Sunday, April 16, the Hope Chorale will sing *Light's Glittering Morn Bedecks the Sky* by Horatio W. Parker and the Hope Bells will ring *I Know that My Redeemer Lives* by Sandra Eithun. Sunday, April 23, the Hope Chorale sings *Easter Morning* by Paul Christiansen; April 30, the Hope Chorale sings *I Know that My Redeemer Lives* by Craig Courtney.

George



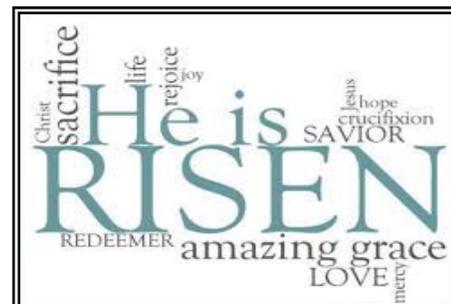
*So I tell you to ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you. Luke 11:9*

In Luke 11:1-10, Jesus teaches us the Lord's Prayer and then tells us the parable of the neighbor knocking on his friend's door in the middle of the night wanting to borrow bread. The neighbor gets the bread due to his persistent asking.

This story illustrates our relationship with God. If a person would lend bread to a neighbor in the middle of the night because the neighbor is not ashamed to keep asking for it, won't God, who we won't even have to wake up, answer our prayers? God is like a gracious and loving parent or friend, always there to listen and respond.

This parable also shows God's willingness to provide and God's willingness to share. If we look for what God has provided to us, there is often more than we need. Jesus was sent by God to save us, giving us the privilege of sharing in the Body of Christ. This parable ends by telling us that God is ready to respond to our requests.

*Provider God, may we have an open heart to receive the gifts that you offer, and in so doing accept our responsibility to respond. May your Spirit guide us to share the resources you provide to do your will in our life, our congregation, our community and beyond. Amen.*





**TIME TO DUST OFF THE GOLF CLUBS!**  
**Mixed Couples' Golf League**  
 Wednesday nights beginning May 17  
 Eagle Lake Golf Course  
 Meet at a local establishment after playing for  
 supper and social time  
 All levels of golfers welcome!  
 To sign up or for questions contact  
 Cheryl or Paul Wallenfelt  
 763-593-9232 or [wallenfelt@comcast.net](mailto:wallenfelt@comcast.net)

Mary Circle from  
 St. James Lutheran Church in Crystal  
 invites you to their Annual Spring Tea

**FLOWERS, FOOD, & FUN**  
**Saturday, April 29**

11:45am—Punch & Seating  
 12:15pm—Welcome  
 12:30pm—Buffet featuring tea sandwiches,  
 assorted bars, cookies, & candies  
 1-2pm—Floral presentation by Rose Bo Floral  
 & Gift Shop with Hirut Woyesa and  
 Conrad Peterson

Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for young ladies under 12)  
 and will go on sale beginning April 2 and are  
 available in the St. James church office during  
 the week.

Call 763-537-3653  
 for more info.

Wear your spring  
 hats and gloves  
 and join us for tea!



**FORUM—April 23 . . .** Patrick Atkinson, founder of *The God's Child Project*, will be with us on Sunday, April 23. Please mark your Calendars and bring family and friends to hear about his project to care for, educate, and provide medical care to over 5,000 orphaned and poverty-stricken youth in the U.S., Guatemala, El Salvador, India and Africa. The project also builds homes for the homeless and supports, educates and provides legal assistance to 8,700 widowed, abandoned and single mothers.

The Atkinson Center is the operational base from which *The God's Child Project* and *ITEMP* (Institute for Trafficked, Exploited, & Missing Persons) and Executive Director Patrick Atkinson and networked volunteers and groups work to relieve human suffering and social injustices in developing regions and nations, especially in areas where social class and racial discrimination dominate.

Patrick himself has encountered many life-saving experiences where he has risked his life to save the life of someone else. Patrick says, "This is not a story about me; it is about God's children". He has written books and some will be available for purchase at the forum.



**KIDPACK ASSEMBLY**  
**Tuesday, April 25**  
**4:00-6:00pm**

The Food Group  
 8501 54th Ave  
 New Hope

Volunteers are always needed and much appreciated. The Kid Pack program supports approximately 4,500 local area school-age children monthly. Thank you for your dedication to this much needed ministry.



### ***"Families Moving Forward"***

The Bonfire Ministry congregations will be working together to host 4-5 families at St. James Lutheran the week of April 16-23. House of Hope will be providing volunteers the evenings of Tuesday, April 18 and Thursday, April 20. We will be greeting, making and serving the evening meals, and visiting with the guest families. We will also need one volunteer to stay overnight along with a member from St. James overnight.

There will be a training session on Sunday, April 9 at 1:00pm at St. James for all volunteers who will be helping with the hosting. Please consider helping these families as they transition to finding a new home.

If you have questions or would like to sign up to help out, we will have a table in the narthex through April 9. You can also contact Erin Paulsen at [espaulsen6616@msn.com](mailto:espaulsen6616@msn.com) or 763-670-5828. Thank you!



### ***SAVE THE DATE!***

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 21. That Sunday afternoon, at 4:00 p.m. House of Hope's Hope Chorale will be participating in a Choral Benefit Concert in support of the ISIAAH Sanctuary Movement. A number of choirs from churches in the Twin Cities will come together that afternoon to help call attention to the Sanctuary Movement as well as to raise some funds in support of ISIAAH and the churches participating in the Sanctuary movement. The concert starts at 4:00 p.m. at The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in St. Paul (285 N. Dale Street) and you are all invited to attend and hear some fabulous singing! Come out and support our Hope Chorale and ISIAAH's Sanctuary Movement.



### **BOWLING!!!**

**Sunday, April 2nd**

Youth and Families are invited to go bowling at Brunswick following worship. Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions.

### **JAM**

*Jesus and Me* time for 4th graders will be Wednesday, April 5th at 5:00pm. Meet with Pastor Gretchen to have fun and learn more about God! Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 3rd.

### **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER!!!**

Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00pm.

### ***PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST CONCERT WORLD PREMIERE***

Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, commissioned Dr. René Clausen to compose a significant choral orchestral work in observation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Hear 400 musicians tell the story of the Passion in the world premiere performance at Orchestra Hall on Saturday, April 8th at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at [MinnesotaOrchestra.org](http://MinnesotaOrchestra.org).



### **FOR SENIORS . . .**

Wednesday, April 12  
11:30am

House of Hope  
Potluck Lunch (bring a  
favorite dish to share)

Free will offering.  
Entertainment will be the  
Rod Cerar Band.



## CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

### BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2 - Julie Johansen  
 4/3 - Jim Neus  
 4/4 - Dave Stedje  
 4/6 - Bunny Zeisel  
 4/11 - Kenneth Agar  
 4/15 - Annette Hansen  
 4/16 - Idonis McMullin  
 Scott Reger  
 4/18 - Delores Larsen  
 Graham Remple  
 Ceci Wold  
 4/19 - Orv Johnson  
 4/20 - Diane Ellis  
 4/21 - Eli Rombalski  
 4/22 - Robyn Quam  
 4/23 - Brady Olson  
 4/24 - Linda Brooke  
 Ross Hansing  
 4/28 - Stan Haapala  
 Christina Montgomery  
 Clarice Sulzbach  
 4/29 - Carolyn Larson

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/6 - Ben & Kris Allen  
 4/23 - Chuck & Dianne Carlson

If you have a birthday or anniversary in April and are not on the lists please contact Barb in the church office (763-533-3341).



**CHRISTIANS  
AIN'T PERFECT  
BUT JESUS IS!**

### *Thank You's . . .*

*Dear House of Hope,  
 Sincere thanks for your recent gift of \$165.00 (4th quarter benevolence) to the Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door program. As you know, we are a non-profit organization and rely on donations such as yours so we can continue to provide hot meals to shut-ins or people unable to cook for themselves.  
 Dinner At Your Door Board*

*Dear Pastor Mark & House of Hope Members,  
 Thank you for the 2016 Lutefisk Dinner gift of \$500 to Plymouth Christian Youth Center. Your contribution helps us to enrich the lives of thousands of children and youth in North Minneapolis each year, helping them develop their skills, believe in themselves, and grow into confident, compassionate, and contributing members of our society and world. We're grateful to know that you and so many others in this community believe in our work. We treasure your generous support and pledge to continue to do our part to make our world a better place by investing in the well-being of youth and families. We are most grateful for the generous gift to our work in North Minneapolis!  
 Anne Long, Executive Director*



*Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
 Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
 For our redeemer burst from the tomb,  
 Even from death, dispelling its gloom.  
 Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
 Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
 Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
 Jesus is living, alleluia!*

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922. Music: Tanzanian traditional.  
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**SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . .** Team #5 will be responsible for the month of May. They will meet on Sunday, April 9, to volunteer for the month's tasks. **SUPPORT YOUR TEAMMATES BY ATTENDING THE MEETING.** (Many hands make light work.) The members of Team #5 are:

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Kenneth & Tanis Agar          | Ben & Kris Allen                         |
| Christine Beck                | Bob & Jody Bonsen                        |
| Len & Pat Carlson             | Tim & Shannon Dahl<br>& Delaney & Reggie |
| Ken & Lois Erickson           | Shawn & Michelle Follmer                 |
| Andy & Wendy Fretag & Emma    | Nate & Lori Gove                         |
| Tom & Debbie Haney            | John & Theresa Henderson                 |
| Marlene Holmquist             | Eleanor Hunsberger                       |
| Lisa Loehrs & Taylor & Neriah | Tom & Lynne McGrath                      |
| David Nelson                  | Floyd Olson                              |
| Ashton & Swaro Persaud        | Daniel Persaud                           |
| Reuel Persaud                 | Mark Pilon                               |
| Mike & Robyn Quam             | Karen Schaupp                            |
| Mandy Scott                   | Phyllis Snustad                          |
| Barbara Sorkilmo              | Kay Strating                             |
| Sara Utt                      | Nancy Walker                             |
| Randy & Rose Wangen           | Marian Wesley                            |
| Bunny Zeisel                  |  |



### House of Hope Staff

Pastor Mark Vinge  
[mvinge@hohlc.org](mailto:mvinge@hohlc.org)  
 Pastor Gretchen Rode  
[grode@hohlc.org](mailto:grode@hohlc.org)  
 Deacon George Brooke  
[gbrooke@hohlc.org](mailto:gbrooke@hohlc.org)  
 Barb Suckerman  
[office@hohlc.org](mailto:office@hohlc.org)  
 Debbie Haney, Bonfire Parish Nurse  
 612-408-2049

### Sunday Morning Schedule

FREE Breakfast—8-8:30am  
 Worship—9:00am  
 Sunday School—10:00am  
 Forum/Fellowship—10:00am  
 Christ's Kingdom Assemblies  
 Ministries—11:00am

### Weekly Bible Studies

WEDNESDAY—  
 6:30am—Men's Bible Study  
 (Country Kitchen)  
 10:30am—Wed. AM Bible Study  
 (at church)  
 7:00pm—CKAM Bible Study  
 (at church)  
 THURSDAY—  
 9:30 am—Women's Bible Study  
 (at church)

### Mission Statement

*Living out God's grace we seek  
 to be neighbors to all.*

**SERVICE TEAMS CALENDAR**— Please mark your calendars with the date for your next opportunity to sign up for your service team month. We encourage you to support your team by signing up for as many tasks as you can. We appreciate all your help.

Service Team #5 - April 9, 2017  
 Service Team #6 - May 14, 2017  
 Service Team #7 - June 11, 2017  
 Service Team #1 - July 9, 2017  
 Service Team #3 - August 13, 2017  
 Your Service Team Task Force

### PARISH NURSE HOURS

Thursdays—11am-1pm  
 3rd Sunday—9:00am-12 noon  
 Debbie's direct phone number is 612-408-2049  
 or call her at the church  
 763-533-3341 and leave a voice mail.

**The deadline for the May issue of the *Letter of Hope* is April 20th.**



**House of Hope Lutheran Church**  
**4800 Boone Avenue North**  
**New Hope, MN 55428**

## **HOUSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A Reconciling Congregation*

4800 Boone Avenue North    New Hope, MN 55428  
Phone: (763) 533-3341        FAX: (763) 531-9006  
[www.hohlc.org](http://www.hohlc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/houseofhopemn](https://www.facebook.com/houseofhopemn)

House of Hope Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* community. All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to participate fully in fellowship and service. God loves us unconditionally and we endeavor to be a place where that same hospitality is extended to everyone. Following Christ we seek justice and reconciliation among all peoples. We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life, faith or creed. Each person is a unique creation of God and, through Grace, is a child of God. We invite you to come and worship with us.