



Letter of Hope August 2017

House of Hope Lutheran Church
New Hope, MN

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



Want to visit some beautiful gardens? Here's your chance! All four gardens will be open on Sunday, August 13 from noon to 3:00pm. Visit all of them, or as many as you have time for.

You can visit in any order, but here's the suggested order:

- Mae Lou & Ben Thompson, 8317 33rd Place N, New Hope
- Tom & Becky Broeckel, 4656 Flag Ave N, New Hope
- Roberta Etherington, 4631 Aquila Ave N, New Hope
- Joe & Karen Brehmer, 7711 47-1/2 Ave N, New Hope

Inside . . .

Letter from Pastor Mark
Music Director's Notes
Stewardship Corner
Bonfire News . . . and more!

PLAN AHEAD!



It's not too early to start thinking about our 37th Annual Lutefisk Dinner.

I know I'm a strange breed, but it's in the back of my mind ALL YEAR! To me it is a wonderful way to get to know people in our congregation on a deeper level—rather than just a "good morning". The fellowship and laughter coming from the kitchen as potatoes are peeled and meatballs prepared makes my heart happy.

Every year we ask for donations of food and craft items, along with willing workers.

And this year is no exception.

So please put November 3rd on your calendar, put on your work shoes, and plan on being a part of it.

Thank you!
Nancy Elliott

I PRAISE YOU
BECAUSE I AM
fearfully
AND
wonderfully
MADE.

PSALM 139:14

+ **Pastor's Letter** +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

As Lutherans all over the world have been celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation they have also been debating how the Church might be reformed today. In many ways, that debate is in our blood; the very beginning of the Reformation was birthed in challenging the status quo. Given the current challenges facing the Church all over the world, we almost can't help but be reformed. Some even put this more starkly: reform or die!

One book that has gained some attention is *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. The author uses the metaphor of Lewis and Clark paddling their way in canoes expecting to find the Pacific Ocean. What they found instead were mountains, huge mountains and uncharted territory. His idea is that the Church today has also entered uncharted territory leaving us with the challenge of adapting to our new situation.

One of the situations he, like many others, has lifted up is that we are in a post-Christendom world. In other words, the old idea of nations being wholly Christian and of Christianity being the norm, the guide, the standard, even, for society is past. While some might lament this change others see it as a refreshing change - allowing for more authentic Christian living and more deliberate discernment of faith in life; no more automatic memberships or assumptions of faith.

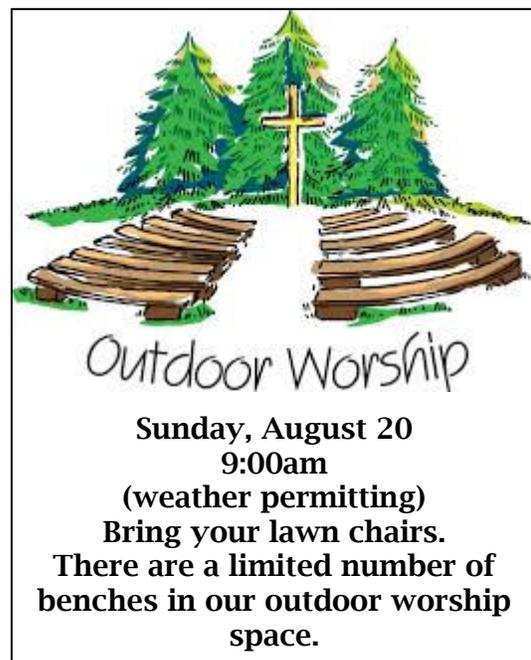
The "worship wars" of the last century were only the tip of the iceberg. The Church has always been slow to respond to new ideas and challenges. That is both helpful and limiting. But whereas the introduction of new music was a challenge to the status quo in worship, it was only the beginning. Today, everything that makes up the institution we call Church is under reconsideration. Bolsinger proposes the same thing we have been talking about around here. That we need to rethink our congregational mission. Rather than being a sanctuary-based, membership driven service provider we

are being called to be a mission outpost for ministry in our cities and neighborhoods.

Gladly, we have lots of company in this reforming movement. May we continue to listen and learn from others, from new and different ideas, and be willing to experiment and fail and try again. In all that, we know that God will continue to be with us leading the way. Amen? Amen!

Pastor Mark

+ + + +





Here we are again — the end of July and summer seems to be flying past us. We've had a very nice summer so far, many pleasant days (and a few not so pleasant). Plenty of opportunity for us to enjoy the sunshine and nice weather. Let us savor what's left of our summer to help boost our spirits when the weather's not so nice!

Earlier this summer I participated in the national conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. It was a great gathering with workshops, outstanding worship services and opportunity to renew friendships. We worshiped in five different sanctuaries each of which glorified God in their own unique way and gave worshipers a sense of awe. The worship services were lead by colleagues from the Association and we heard and sang thrilling music and heard outstanding preaching. All of this inspires me to return to House of Hope hoping to impart some of that awe and wonder to you as we worship together.

Our theme for the conference was "*Remember well the future*" - a very interesting theme and one which provoked some excellent speakers and outstanding conversations. As Lutherans we are entrusted with a great heritage of worship, hymns and music; a heritage that we need to preserve and pass on to future generations. But we are not living in a museum so we need to also look to the future. As wonderful as it is to sing the great hymns of our heritage together we also need to sing some newer hymns that speak to our future. At House of Hope we try to sing hymns that are newer while we continue to sing the hymns of our heritage. There are some who would like to sing only the hymns of our heritage but there are also some that would prefer to sing mostly hymns that speak to the future. But we can't have the future without remembering our past and our past is meaningless if it doesn't speak to the future. So we need to remember well the future!

George

Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

When we confess that Jesus is Lord, we recognize God's possession and power over all things. In short, we express that we belong to Jesus and to no one else or anything else.

In the days of the early Christian church, the emperor of Rome was regarded as a god by the Romans. Early Christians' love for the Lord, enthusiasm of their worship, and faithfulness to Jesus Christ were so clear, public and unmistakable that they were charged with being atheists with regard to the Roman emperor.

When the early Christians proclaimed "Jesus is Lord", they knew, and the Roman authorities knew, what that meant. If Jesus is Lord, then the emperor was not. If Jesus is Lord, then neither money nor the nation is to be worshiped. If Jesus is Lord, then Jesus' disciples have no other lords.

Jesus, you are Lord; I am yours. I recommit myself to demonstrate by my words and my actions that you are indeed Lord of creation and Lord of my life. Amen.

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED

We are looking for a person or persons who would be willing to pick up the flowers for the altar for Sunday mornings. It's not a hard job and if you like shopping for and arranging bouquets in a vase this could be the job for you. If you would like to be one of a few people who volunteer we can set up a schedule that will work for you. Please call Barb in the church office (763-533-3341) if you are interested in helping.

KIDPACK REPRESENTATIVE FROM HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDED!

We need someone from this congregation to be our KidPack representative. The KidPack committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at First Lutheran Church of Crystal. The reps work together on the various aspects of KidPack including, but not limited to: packing operations, logistics, food, fundraising, and making community connections. It's really important to have all partners represented. I have been on the committee for the past four years and am looking for a replacement. I will be anxiously awaiting your call! Thank you!

—Deb Mans, 612-723-1970



NEAR

5209 W. Broadway Ave, Crystal
Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

PRISM

730 Florida Ave S, Golden Valley
Monday 11am-7pm
Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-4pm
Thursday 9am-2pm

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Once again we have the opportunity to help get children in our communities ready for the start of the school year in September. Many supplies are needed by NEAR and PRISM. Items always needed are:

- Backpacks
- Highlight Pens
- Rulers
- Glue Sticks
- Erasers
- Blunt Scissors
- Pencils
- 2-pocket Folders (red, yellow, green, blue)
- Loose Leaf Paper (wide & college ruled)
- Colored Pencils
- Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks.

Watch the ads for school supplies on sale in the next month. A table will be set up in the narthex soon for your donations.

Thanks for helping parents in our community equip their children for school!

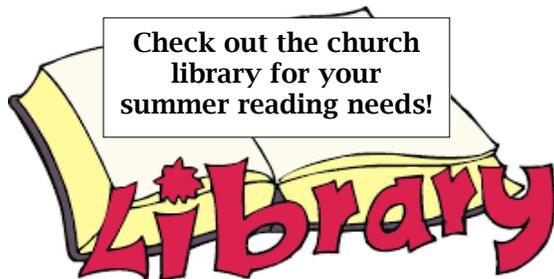
Church Bulletin Bloopers—

- *The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.*
- *For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.*
- *Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.*

MANY THANKS . . . for all your prayers and support for Vacation Bible School this year! Special thanks to all who donated/loaned items for us to use and to the Fellowship Team for providing delicious walking tacos on the first night. We had a great week of fun and faith-growth! Fourteen kids from House of Hope participated among almost 70 kids all together. What a great week!

CAMP WAPO!

Pastor Gretchen, Abby Hansen, Emily Nightengale, Sam Wangen, and Sophia Wangen are heading to Camp Wapo between August 4th-11th. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe and fun week learning about being "Fearless with God"!



REMEMBER THE NEAR & PRISM FOOD SHELVES THIS SUMMER!

Demand is always higher in the summer when children are home from school. Along with your donations of groceries of all kinds, please consider giving COOKING OIL for the month of July, SUGAR for the month of August and BATHROOM TISSUE for the month of September. There seem to be consistent shortages of these particular items and this would stock their shelves as holidays approach. Thank you for helping us meet the needs of our hungry neighbors.



September 16, 2017
3:00-8:00pm

Watch for sign up sheets as we get closer to the date.



Our last church directory was done in 2013. It's time to do a new one as things have changed! Dates for picture taking are tentatively set for the 13th-16th of

September. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. There will also be instructions on how you can go online and register for the time and day that works best for you. We hope that our whole church family will be a part of this new directory!

Community Health Fair

Sunday, October 15, 2017
First Lutheran Church of Crystal
Sponsored by the Bonfire Health & Wellness Committee along with First Lutheran Church of Crystal and Faith Church International.
Time is yet to be determined.
Save the date!

Our Church Family . . .***Births***

- Nellie Pamela Hokr, born on June 18 to Kevin & Amber Hokr

**CELEBRATING THIS MONTH****BIRTHDAYS**

- 8/1 - Fiona Witzke
 8/3 - Joe Brehmer
 Jonathan Nyquist
 8/5 - Lisa Anderson
 Brynden Halupnick
 8/9 - Lee Olson
 8/13 - Joe Trombley
 8/15 - Roberta Etherington
 Anna Nightengale
 8/16 - Dean Wuollet
 8/20 - Chris Brewster
 8/21 - Karen Hamann
 8/23 - Kariann Sammy
 8/25 - LaVonne Pray
 8/27 - Pat Kukachka
 Sofia Wold
 8/30 - Reuel Persaud

ANNIVERSARIES

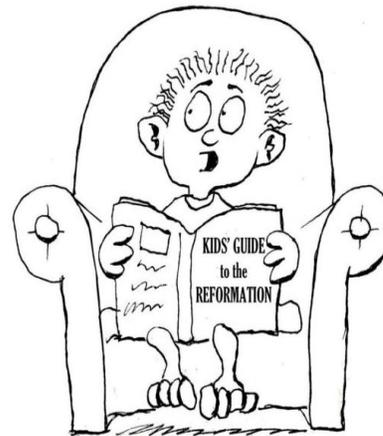
- 8/1 - Nate & Lori Gove
 8/4 - Marlin & Holly Haney
 Mark & Jill Jensen
 8/8 - Jake & Anne Jacobson
 8/14 - Paul & Cheryl Wallenfelt

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



*“I have held many things
 in my hands,
 and I have lost them all;
 But whatever I have placed in
 God’s hands, that I still possess.”*

—Martin Luther



MOM, I WANT TO BE LIKE MARTIN LUTHER WHEN I GROW UP—CAN I GO TO REFORM SCHOOL?

Copyright © 2016 by www.TheMartins.com

SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . . Team #3 will be responsible for September 2017. They will meet on Sunday, August 13, 2017, at 10:00am after the worship service. Please come and volunteer for as many tasks as you can.

The members of Team #3 are:

Marty Anderson	Tom & Judy Behlke
Mark Berg	Dalyn Beske
BJ & Ella Mae Bjorkman	Joe & Karen Brehmer
Mert Cooper	Marian Denno
Alisa DeSaer	Jane Griffith
Darrel & Karen Hamann	Mike & Julie Johansen
Kathy Johnson	GINNY KUNS
Judie Lucchesi	Jim & Lynette Neus
Steve & Colleen Nightengale	Robert & Sherry Olson
Scott & Michelle Reger	Gary & Patti Remple & Kaitlyn
Victoria Salvog	Alan & Denise Strandlund & Riley
Gil & Mary Sundeen	Ben & Mae Lou Thompson
Randy Vescelius	Harley & Mona Rae Wanous
Ezzie & Jean Wild	Gary Wittmer & Michael & Matthew

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 #3 - August 13, 2017
 Service Team #5 - September 10, 2017
 Service Team #6 - October 8, 2017
 Service Team #7 - November 12, 2017
 Service Team #1 - December 10, 2017
 Your Service Team Task Force

House of Hope Staff

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

Summer Sunday Schedule

FREE Breakfast—8:00am
 Worship—9:00am
 Coffee Fellowship—10:00am
 Christ's Kingdom Assemblies
 Ministries—11:00am

Weekly Bible Studies—
 will resume in September.

Mission Statement

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

**The deadline for the September
 issue of the *Letter of Hope* is
 August 20th.**

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.



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
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.