



Letter of Hope January 2017

House of Hope Lutheran Church
A Reconciling Congregation

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

ANNUAL MEETING

AND BRUNCH . . .

Sunday, January 29, 2017

**Join us in Fellowship Hall at 10:00am following
worship for brunch and our annual meeting.**

***For Such a Time as This:
Building Our Prophetic Resistance***
January 28th, 1-4pm,
Shiloh Temple International Ministries
1201 W. Broadway Ave, Minneapolis

Register online at: www.tinyurl.com/propheticresistance

Or sign up on the sheet in the narthex outside of the sanctuary

We will:

gather to prepare our prophetic resistance.

pray, worship, lament and repent together for the moment we are facing as a people, state, and country.

build our collective ability to resist dehumanization, violence, and fear.

build our vision for life and abundance in our communities; and we will build our strength and conviction toward the kind of prophetic resistance we will need in the coming years.

Then, we will act. We will call on our Governor, legislative and national representatives to resist with us and to declare Sanctuary, safety and healthy communities for all people in Minnesota.



Register today and join us January 28th. This event is FREE and open to those ready to Resist!

+ **Pastor's Letter** +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

Last month the Ministry Leadership Team voted unanimously to declare House of Hope Lutheran Church to be a sanctuary for immigrants facing deportation. This vote took place because I had called a special meeting solely for that purpose. The Leadership Team responded with care and deliberation that would make you proud. They wrestled with the question of taking it to the congregation first. They debated whether we would support other congregations rather than offering sanctuary ourselves. Together we wondered if we ought to wait until we figured out the logistics of housing a person or an entire family in our building for 24 hours a day especially since we don't have a shower. As they discussed these kinds of questions they concluded that they were ready to act boldly and that defining ourselves as a sanctuary congregation was an urgent response to a growing level of fear among our immigrant communities. That very real fear among our most vulnerable neighbors challenges to us live out our mission: *Living out God's grace we seek to be neighbors to all.*

Part of the Leadership Team's decision was the intention to immediately inform the congregation through a forum and this article but also to be prepared to revisit it at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29 where any matter of business may be introduced. In fact, following the forum on Dec. 11 a follow up meeting was held on Dec. 18. At the forum I thought the most poignant comment was from Rev. Hunsberger, who noted that our nation's history is rooted in the availability of cheap labor beginning with slavery; today's immigrants are the latest group of people who we depend on to do the work while at the same time are put in precarious situations that put themselves at risk.

This reminds me of the story of my son-in-law, Acek, who grew up in Indonesia. Like many in that country he traveled to other countries to earn a better income so he could support the family back home. On one such excursion he got a job working in Malaysia. Once he arrived his employer took away his passport and papers and essentially

held him as a slave; if he got out of line or complained the employer held the threat of turning him over to the police. Eventually, that is exactly what happened and he was thrown in jail until he was sold to pirates who tried to ship him to another place of forced labor. Fortunately for him he escaped and returned home. But it is an example of the injustice that exists all over the world where those trying to help their families become the victims, first through slave labor, and shabby treatment but always with the threat of imprisonment or worse. Shouldn't it be exactly the opposite? Shouldn't those who take advantage of the vulnerable be the ones held to account instead of blaming the immigrant and victimizing them again?

Even lawyers for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement admit that our immigration system is broken. There are many who are trapped between a rock and hard place because they have no options. None. They persevere, always under threat, but hoping to keep their families together. Politics has prevented any long-term solution. On top of that, the rhetoric from the 2016 campaign was more extreme than we have ever heard from major party candidates. The fear is real; understandably so. Therefore, in the meantime congregations like ours will be trying to stand in the gap. We will stand with the immigrants; every one of us are connected to a hundred stories of people who came to this country and have made it their home, too. More than one person at the Leadership Team meeting said, "We want to be on the right side of this." I couldn't agree more.

Pastor Mark



JANUARY FORUMS . . .

- Jan. 1 - No Forum
 Jan. 8 - Team Sharing: Worship & Arts,
 Outreach & Communication,
 Education
 Jan. 15 - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Jan. 22 - Budget Forum
 Jan. 29 - Brunch & Annual Congregational
 Meeting



This month's Stewardship Corner will be an update on, and more information about, our Consecration Sunday stewardship program.

First of all, we pledged a total of \$314,812 for 2017, which is a 6.2% increase over our pledges for 2016! Thank you everyone!!

There are approximately 135 giving units (couples or single persons) at House of Hope. A total of 92 giving units completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* this year.

A total of 72 giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount. There were 12 giving units that pledged in 2017 that had not pledged in 2016. There were 10 giving units that pledged in 2016 that did not pledge in 2017, but that included 2 families that left House of Hope during 2016.

It is not too late to fill out an *Estimate of Giving Card* for 2017. *Estimate of Giving Cards* are still available in the church office.

Thank you again to everyone for making our 2016 Consecration Sunday stewardship program such a success. This success will help House of Hope continue its many ministries and perhaps enable us to pursue new ministries as well.



2017! A new year! With this new year the ELCA has put into place a new roster for those of us serving the church in ministry. We are now Deacons! When the ELCA was established through the merger there were several different types of rosters, from the predecessor bodies, of people serving the church but who were not ordained. Over the next couple of years after the merger those rosters were distilled to three rosters: Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers, and members of the Deaconess Community. After several years of study and consultation the decision was reached to consolidate the three rosters into one. This past summer the Church Wide Assembly formally voted to create one roster for Ministers of Word and Service. I was rostered as an Associate in Ministry but will now be a Deacon. While the change of title to Deacon is interesting the primary change is in the intention of the roster: Minister of Word and Service. That title more realistically describes our purpose — to serve the church in word and service!

With the new year our musical groups continue to prepare music to enhance our worship services. On January, 8, the Baptism of Our Lord, the Hope Chorale sings *We Believe That This Is Jesus* by Mark Sedio; on January 15 the Hope Chorale will sing *Who Is the Lamb?* by Lloyd Larson; Sunday, January 22, the Hope Bells will ring *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* by Jason W. Krug; January 29, the Hope Chorale will sing *When the Poor Ones* by David Cherwien.



FREE!

**SPARC SERIES...
Sparking the community
with information and
connections**



SPARC (*Schools, Parents And Resources Connect*), is a series of informational sessions that will bring parents, educators and community members together to learn about important topics that build resiliency and developmental assets in our children.



***“A Parent Experience of
Childhood Suicide —
Signs, Songs and Healing”***

**Thursday, January 12, 2017 6:30—8:30 p.m.
House of Hope Lutheran Church - 4800 Boone Ave., New Hope**

Of school-aged youth, close to 20% experience depression or some other mental health condition during their school years. Adam Levy will share how his son's depression led to suicide at the age of 21. Adam Levy is a singer-songwriter, social activist, educator, and parent. He has been called a great American songwriter and an unknown treasure by journalists and fans around the world. He's probably best known as the leader and founding member of the Minnesota-based rock band, The Honeydogs. Adam also has explored children's music, orchestral pop, experimental electronic sounds, Brazilian, and American roots music in the 1/2 dozen or so bands and projects he leads.

In 2012, Levy lost his son Daniel to suicide. The tragedy altered every inch of his and his family's lives. It left Levy creatively incapacitated. Gradually, Levy started writing songs again. What came out were songs that expressed the longing and self-examination he'd been experiencing in the wake of his son's death. The songs don't wallow in the agony. Rather they dignify Daniel's suffering and his genius as a visual artist. The results are contained in the record *Naubinway*.

Grammy winner Joe Henry calls the record “love in action — a courageous and generous offering, where ghosts abound, facing the quiet inevitable that forever walks with us. It's a record with soul and deep compassion. It is a beautiful and remarkable piece of work.”

In these two hours, Levy will share with audience lessons of grief, discovery, healing and celebration through art. Levy's records will be available for purchase.

Please RSVP to Melodie at 763-504-4981 or Melodie_hanson@rdale.org with name and number attending. **Free childcare available** — please reserve your spot when you register with ages of children.

This SPARC series is sponsored by: Robbinsdale Area Redesign; Robbinsdale Area Schools: Community Education and Bonfire Ministry.



KidPack Dates

There will be two opportunities for you to help fill goodies bags for the Bonfire KidPack Ministry—Tuesday, January 3rd and Tuesday, January 31st at The Food Group, 8501 - 54th Ave N
Join with members of the other Bonfire congregations to pack nutritious snack bags for children at Meadow Lake and Forest Elementary Schools

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for the week of July 23-28, 2017. All kids ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to join in this fun time of learning about God and having fun together. We'll be meeting in the evenings and sharing this time with other Wildfire churches like last year! Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions. More info to come!



SENIOR MINISTRY EVENT

Wednesday, January 11, 2017; 11:30am at First Lutheran Church of Crystal. The committee will prepare the lunch. There will be a free will offering. We'll be playing BINGO following

lunch. There will be prizes and fun for all. Plan to join us!

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
NO BIBLE STUDIES
NO CONFIRMATION**

**The first week of January
Classes will resume beginning January 8th**



SUMMER CAMP IS COMING!

Plan on fun at Camp Wapo!

All kids in grades 4-12 will be going to Camp Wapo the week of August 6th-11th. High schoolers will participate in the TIM Team which includes leadership activities in addition to all the usual camp fun. Kids in grades 2-3 are invited to try out Wapo over the SEEDS weekend of August 4th-6th. The theme for this year comes from Joshua and is about being *Fearless in our Faith!* Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions or to sign up!

ULTIMATE LOCK-IN

January 27, 2017

Maple Grove Community Center

Begins at 10:00pm

Talk to Pastor Gretchen if you want to be part of the fun!

ANNUAL KIDPACK SOUP & CHILI FUNDRAISER

Friday, January 20, 2017 4:00-7:00pm

at St. James Lutheran Church of Crystal

Tasty homemade soups—

Chicken Wild Rice & Tomato Basil

Plus the very popular KidPack Chili

\$8 for adults & \$5 for children 12 and under

“To Go” orders for \$8/pint & \$15/quart

Call St. James for tickets (763-537-3653)



**CELEBRATING
THIS MONTH**

BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 - Robert Olson
- 1/3 - AllieRose Walker
- 1/4 - Allison Gove
Ginny Kuns
- 1/5 - Ken Erickson
- 1/13 - Catherine Martenson
- 1/18 - Gary Bearl
Eric Hanson
- 1/19 - Linda Moen
- 1/20 - Ron Anderson
- 1/22 - Kelsey Mans
- 1/23 - Lucas Burshiem
Richard Fulmer
- 1/24 - Rachel Gove
- 1/25 - Len Carlson
Arne Larson
Stan Stensaas
- 1/28 - Annika Walstrom
- 1/29 - Debbie Haney
- 1/30 - Marian Denno
- 1/31 - Carter Jensen
Daniel Persaud

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/6 - Andy & Wendy Fretag
- 1/28 - Stanley & Ruth Haapala
- 1/31 - Dave & Ione Stedje

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



Bonfire Ministry

will be hosting families at St. James Lutheran Church the week of January 22-29. There are many volunteer opportunities: greeting hosts, cooks/servers, after dinner hosts, set-up/clean-up. For all who volunteer there will be a training session on January 8 at 1:00pm at St. James Lutheran in Crystal. Please consider signing up to help these families in transition as they work their way to find permanent housing. It is a great opportunity to be a neighbor to those in our community! Look for the sign-up table in the narthex.

Bonfire's Families Moving Forward Ministry . . .

will be hosting families at St. James Lutheran Church the week of January 22-29. There are many volunteer opportunities: greeting hosts, cooks/servers, after dinner hosts, set-up/clean-up. For all who volunteer there will be a training session on January 8

Thank You's . . .

from Luther Seminary for the gift of \$460 (3rd quarter benevolence) to help support students at the school

from PRISM for the gift of \$1,226 (3rd quarter benevolence) which helps them to meet the basic needs of individuals and families in our communities who do not have the means to provide those needs for themselves

from Loaves & Fishes for the gift of \$552 (3rd quarter benevolence) to help provide nutritious meals, comfort, and kindness to thousand of families and individuals who depend on them for those things

from Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door for the gift of \$276 (3rd quarter benevolence) to help them provide hot meals to shut-ins or people unable to cook for themselves

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German professor and pastor, was imprisoned in Germany in 1942 (and later executed) for planning to assassinate Adolph Hitler. He wrote this beautiful morning prayer around Christmas of 1943 for his fellow prisoners:

O Heavenly Father
I praise and thank you for the peace of the night;
I praise and thank you for all your goodness and faithfulness
throughout my life.
You have granted me many blessings;
Now let me also accept what is hard from your hand.
You will lay on me no more than I can bear.
You make all things work together for good for your children.

SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . . Team #7 will be responsible for February 2017. It will meet on Sunday, January 8, 2017, after the Sunday worship service, to volunteer for the month's tasks. Please SUPPORT YOUR TEAMMATES BY ATTENDING THE MEETING. The members of Team #7 are:

Leroy & Karen Bachmeier	Jane Brandt
Steve & Sharon Burshiem	Arlene Chenvert
Marilyn Eggert	Nancy Elliott
Mildred Freese	Ryan & Kaela Halupnick
Ross & Virginia Hansing	Eric Hanson
Kevin & Amber Hokr	Tim & Nancy Horsch
Jake & Anne Jacobson	Don & Jean Johansen
Arlen & Sharon Johnson	Orv & Betty Johnson
Arne & Carolyn Larson	Deb Mans
Lee Olson	Pam Pofert
Joe & Sandee Rademacher	Todd & Joyce Stupnik
Clarice Sulzbach	Harold & Marlene Truax
Paul & Cheryl Wallenfelt	Patty Wiese



House of Hope Staff

Pastor Mark Vinge
mvinge@hohlc.org
 Pastor Gretchen Rode
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 George Brooke
gbrooke@hohlc.org
 Barb Suckerman
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 #7 - January 8, 2017
 Service Team #1 - February 12, 2017
 Service Team #3 - March 12, 2017
 Service Team #5 - April 9, 2017
 Service Team #6 - May 14, 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 February issue of the *Letter of Hope* is January 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
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.