

# Letter of Hope July 2017

House of Hope Lutheran Church  
New Hope, MN

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



*God bless our native land,  
Land of the newly free.  
Oh may she ever stand  
For truth and liberty.*

*God bless our native land,  
Where sleep our kindred dead.  
Let peace at thy command  
Above their graves be shed.*

*God help our native land,  
Bring surcease to her strife,  
And shower from thy hand  
A more abundant life.*

*God bless our native land,  
Her homes and children bless.  
Oh may she ever stand  
For truth and righteousness.  
Oh may she ever stand  
For truth and righteousness.*

*Frances E.W. Harner*

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

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

I will never forget attending the New York Pride Parade with a fellow vicar (pastoral intern) in our clergy collars after worship. We waved rainbow flags and cheered on the passing parade. But, what was amazing was the way people in the crowd looked at us- two pastors at the Pride Parade- dumbfounded, surprised, and a few with hope brimming in their eyes.

It is still unique to be a member of the LGBTQ community and a pastor. When I attend meetings of pastors, in our conference or in our synod, I am usually the only gay person in the room. We are a growing community, though. For the past two years I have served on the Leadership Team of Proclaim- the community of LGBTQ pastors and rostered leaders within the ELCA. We currently number 250 and like to proudly state that we are a growing group of "faithful and fabulous" leaders in our church. We support one another in this calling and in our belief that our "queerness" is a gift to the church. You can learn more about our work and our wider organization, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, at [elm.org](http://elm.org)

It is also still unique, within the gay community, to be a Christian. Christian churches have, historically, not been welcoming places for the LGBTQ community. In the past, and still sometimes today, churches have used selective passages in the Bible to judge queer people, have used painful practices to try to "change" them, and have welcomed people in the LGBTQ community only by ignoring their "lifestyle." Churches have not been a safe place for gay people.

This is why the people at the Pride Parade in New York stared at me and my fellow vicar. They were used to the Church not being present at Pride, at the Church excluding them, and at the Church turning away from celebrations of difference.

Here, at House of Hope, we are a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We have a welcome statement that states: "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 are very glad you are here."

This is our welcome statement because we believe the writings of Paul that say "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith...there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26, 28). We believe in a God that comes to us in Jesus, that welcomes the outcast, that makes a place at the table for the uninvited, that shares God's love with all of God's children.

So, how are we at House of Hope living out this welcome statement? Do people in our neighborhood know that this is place where all are welcome- gay and straight, old and young, married and single? Is our church a welcoming space for two men holding hands or a trans teenager or an older woman just coming out? How are we working as a community to promote equality and to undermine injustice throughout our city?

We believe in a God who welcomes all; who welcomes us. Each June, cities around our nation celebrate LGBTQ Pride in parades and festivals. How can we, as a church community, be a place where people marching and gathering and celebrating and reveling in the safe space of Pride, might feel welcomed and embraced and safe here as well?

May you always know that you have a place at the table- here at House of Hope and in God's kingdom, at Christ's side.

Blessings on your Summer,  
Pastor Gretchen

**We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.**

JIMMY CARTER



*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*  
Matthew 11:28-30

On July 9, the verses above will be a part of the Gospel reading. The yoke that Jesus refers to in these verses symbolizes religion. When Jesus said these words, religion was harsh. There were hundreds of rules for the Jews to follow. In contrast, Jesus' religion was simple and positive - love God, your neighbor and yourself. In other words, worship God and practice mercy.

We are to learn from Jesus. We learn gentleness and humility, love and forgiveness, faith and trust in the goodness of God. We also learn that all we have comes from God and we should use the possessions entrusted to us by God for service to our neighbors.

It is a paradox. We take up the yoke of Jesus. A yoke is usually heavy, but Jesus promises that it is easy and the burden is light. We have all found that when we practice Christian stewardship, our lives improve. When we give our possessions away generously, we get richer. Another paradox!

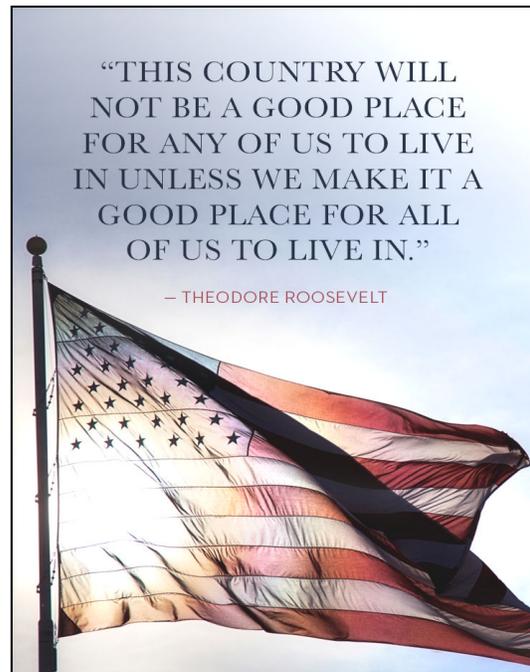


Why is everything so green? At least why are all our paraments and sanctuary decorations so green? Green symbolizes rebirth, growth and hope. During the season of Sundays following Pentecost the lessons we hear emphasize learning from Jesus' teachings. A time for us to enjoy the rebirth of the Resurrection and to grow in Jesus' teachings. Just as we look for the signs of green growth as spring begins to arrive the liturgical green shows us that God is providing a rich, fertile season for us to grow. As we come together each Sunday to worship in a field of green, let us grow as we listen to God's word proclaimed to us in word, prayer, and song. Let us grow in the great abundance that God provides for us!

George

"THIS COUNTRY WILL NOT BE A GOOD PLACE FOR ANY OF US TO LIVE IN UNLESS WE MAKE IT A GOOD PLACE FOR ALL OF US TO LIVE IN."

— THEODORE ROOSEVELT





**Vacation Bible School**  
**Monday July 24-Thursday July 27!**  
**5:45-8:00pm, with dinner at 5:00pm**  
**Faith Lilac Way- on 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave by Hwy 100**  
**Registration due July 2<sup>nd</sup>!**  
**See Pastor Gretchen to sign up, or find registration forms in the office.**

**WANTED: Adults and Youth to help with VBS!**

We need volunteers for Monday-Thursday to help lead small groups and lead worship. And help to set up Faith Lilac Way for the week of fun on Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> in the evening and Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup> in the evening. Talk to Pastor Gretchen or email her at [grode@hohlc.org](mailto:grode@hohlc.org) to help out!

**Want to Support Vacation Bible School?** Donate or loan out items for us to use for the week! If you want something returned to you, please make sure to label it with your full name and "House of Hope" on the item or on tape on the item. There will be a box for donations at House of Hope- items needed by Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Returned on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support! See Pastor Gretchen with questions.



- \*Building blocks
- \*Bean bags
- \*Poster Board
- \*Slip and slide
- \*Plastic Sheeting
- \*Oscillating Sprinkler
- \*Garden hose
- \*Crepe paper streamers
- \*Traffic Cones
- \*Empty Coffee Cans
- \*Rubber Playground balls
- \*3oz plastic cups
- \*16 oz plastic cups
- \*Large buckets
- \*Brightly colored marbles
- \*Pool Noodles (blue preferred)
- \*Hula Hoops
- \*Butcher Paper
- \*Painters Tape
- \*Plastic Food Containers (12)
- \*Empty Clean Butter Tubs (4)
- \*Measuring Spoons (4 sets)
- \*Ping Pong Balls





**What's happening at House of Hope this summer? Here are some of the things to put on your calendars:**

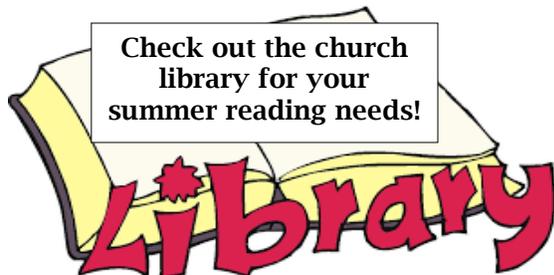
July 24-27—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
(at Faith-Lilac Way)

August 4 & 5—CAMP WAPO SEEDS WEEKEND  
(for 2nd & 3rd graders)

August 6-11—CAMP WAPO WEEK  
(for 4th-9th graders)

**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.



**Free Meals this Summer!**

Summer meals at no cost are available to all kids age 18 and younger.

To eat, just show up!

North Education Center  
5530 Zealand Ave N, New Hope

July 10-August 3

11:15-11:45am

Monday-Thursday

Sponsored by Intermediate District 287



**CALLING ALL WILDFIRE CHURCHES!**

Join us for a Saint Paul Saints game on Tuesday, August 22 at 7:00pm. The game is open to members of all the Wildfire congregations and the tickets are only \$18. Reservations and payment must be made by July 9th by calling the church office at Holy Nativity at 763-545-1647. There will be a bus to take everyone to the game that will leave from Holy Nativity at 6:00pm. Join in for the fun!

**Office Angels Needed . . .** I am so grateful for all of the people, both men and women, who make it possible for me to take time off during the year, especially in the summer. If you could help out occasionally answering phones and greeting guests in the church office please let me know and I will put you on my Office Angels list. No computer work is required. Three hour shifts—easy work! And thank you, AGAIN!, to all my Office Angels!



## CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

### BIRTHDAYS

- 7/1 - Paul Wallenfelt  
 7/8 - Sophia Wangen  
 7/10 - Thomas Michael Haney  
 Isabel Sundeen  
 7/11 - Leah Jensen  
 7/12 - Steve Burshiem  
 Ella Follmer  
 Ione Stedje  
 Connie Stensaas  
 7/13 - Sharee Johnson  
 7/14 - Carol Hedican  
 7/15 - Gary Remple  
 Karen Schaupp  
 7/19 - Riley Rose Mann  
 7/22 - Kaela Halupnick  
 7/27 - Cheryl Wallenfelt  
 7/28 - Kayla Nyquist  
 7/29 - Michelle Follmer

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/19 - Ashton & Swaro Persaud  
 7/25 - Tom & Debbie Haney  
 7/29 - Robert & Sherry Olson

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

## ★ Thank You! ★ THANK YOU! ★

### *Thank You from . . .*

Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door program for the gift of \$150 (1st quarter benevolence)

### **Rise, Remember Well the Future: A Hymn Festival led by The National Lutheran Choir**

Imagine what the singing will be like with a room full of church musicians singing hymns. Add to them the National Lutheran Choir with their Artistic Director David Cherwien at the organ, plus the thoughtful reflections of Susan Palo Cherwien, and it becomes a unique experience not to be missed! "Rise, Remember Well the Future" is the theme both of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Biennial Conference and of this unique hymn festival which will include hymns and choral music of the church that connect the past to the present with an eye to the future. The hymn festival is open to the public.

Tickets will be available at the door:  
 \$20/Adults, \$10/Seniors & Students  
 Tuesday, July 11th—7:30pm  
 Saint Olaf Catholic Church  
 (215 S. 8th Street, Minneapolis)

The National Lutheran Choir, under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature. To learn more about the choir, visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com) and search Facebook, Twitter and YouTube @NLChoir and Instagram @nationallutheranchoir.

### 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.

**SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . .** Team #1 will be responsible for August 2017. They will meet at church in the narthex on Sunday, July 9, 2017, at 10:00am, right after the worship service, to volunteer for the month's tasks. Support your teammates by attending the meeting and signing up for as many tasks as you can. The members of Team #1 are:

Kevin & Lisa Anderson  
 Ron & Glorian Anderson  
 Gary & Chris Bearl  
 Chris Brewster  
 Dorothy Carpenter  
 Barb Drenth  
 Roberta Etherington  
 Gary Freese  
 Ken & Marty Gorsky  
 Stanley & Ruth Haapala  
 Thomas & Shirley Hahn  
 Marlin & Holly Haney  
 Paul & Annette Hansen  
 Carol Hedican  
 Ray Henderson  
 Zach & Samantha Hetrick  
 Barbara Ibister  
 Darla Mann & Riley  
 Gary Minks  
 Ryan & Christina Montgomery  
 Rod & Molly Olson  
 Jason & Abby Rombalski  
 Kariann Sanny  
 Dave & Ione Stedje  
 Kevin & Kristina Wagenmaker & Mason  
 Britta Walstrom  
 Nancy Wesley  
 Brian & Naomi Witzke  
 Dean & Carolyn Wuollet

**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 #1 - July 9, 2017  
 Service Team #3 - August 13, 2017  
 Service Team #5 - September 10, 2017  
 Service Team #6 - October 8, 2017  
 Service Team #7 - November 12, 2017

Your Service Team Task Force



MY HOPE COMES  
 FROM HIM. HE  
 ALONE IS  
 MY ROCK AND MY  
 SALVATION; HE IS MY FORTRESS.  
PSALM 62: 5-6

#### 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

#### 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 August issue  
 of the *Letter of Hope* is July 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.