



Letter of Hope June 2017

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

HOPE
coming together



COMMITMENT SUNDAY—JUNE 4th
WORSHIP AT 9:00am
followed by
CAPITAL APPEAL CELEBRATION & BRUNCH

House of Hope has a long proud history of treating every member as an equal. Whether you are younger or older, whether you are a long-time member or you have only recently started attending, whether you are in leadership or not, you are a treasured part of this community.

We are taking that same *agape* love out into the community, to work, to school, to our neighbors and to our homes. Led by our Lord, Jesus Christ, we are
Hope Coming Together, indeed!



JUNE 4th is also PENTECOST SUNDAY.
Wear **RED** to church that morning as we celebrate
the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church!

+ **Pastor's Letter** +

Dear friends of House of Hope:

My recent trip to the Holy Land was both blessing and challenge. Being my first time visiting Israel and Palestine I was brought close to many different sites that I had heard about all my life; places like Caesarea Maritima, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Bethlehem and of course Jerusalem. My favorite thing was to read the Bible passage associated with each place to recall that part of the story. In many of those places we also met other pilgrims from all over the world. There was blessing in those experiences as well as developing stronger relationships with my traveling companions.

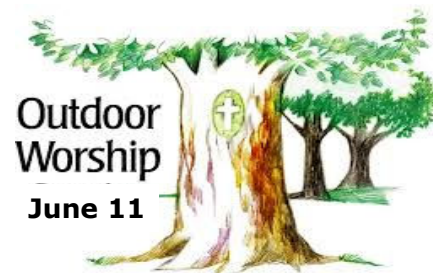
But the flip side of the journey was experiencing the reality of life in that part of the world. At one point we were on the border with Syria, only 40 miles from Damascus, where Israel had bombed the airport the night before. In that same area we could see a large city that had been displaced from the Golan Heights, forced to relocate when Israel captured that land. There was still a UN peace-keeping base on that border. In the West Bank, there are Israeli settlements surrounding the Palestinian cities. Only Israeli citizens are allowed to enter those settlements which are filled with brand new houses, but surrounded by fences and guarded by soldiers in watchtowers. In Jerusalem, we visited Yad Vashem, the holocaust museum that the President recently visited. It is a powerful reminder of the horror inflicted upon over 6 million Jewish people in World War II. The challenge is obvious. There is history that connects these people and the land but it is messy and complicated and there is no clear solution.

To celebrate the blessing of the Holy Land without acknowledging the current political struggle would be pandering to nostalgia. To see only the current conflict would be to miss the deep and significant world history that we are all connected to in one way or another. So this is my ongoing goal, to celebrate the past while also addressing the even more important challenge for today.

This will also guide us as some of us travel to Germany this month. We will be celebrating the work of Martin Luther and the reformers to challenge the Church in their own time and acknowledge our debt to their sacrifices. At the same time, it cannot simply be a trip down memory lane, patting ourselves on the back for being Lutherans. Somehow, someday it will be important for us to be asking ourselves, where does the Church need reforming today; how can we be a part of carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the love of God to our generation. And remember, you don't need to travel to Germany to be working on that. So keep the faith, dear friends; let your light so shine wherever you are.

Pastor Mark

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CELEBRATION AND DEDICATION

Please plan to join us on Sunday, June 11th as we honor and thank Mike and Matt Wittmer for their hard work in providing House of Hope a beautiful setting for outdoor worship as their special project in earning their Eagle Scout Awards. This will be our first outdoor worship experience in the new space and we will have a potluck picnic following worship. Beautiful weather has been ordered so mark your calendar for June 11th and we'll see you all in the backyard!



Please take a few minutes to reread The Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30. This is the story in which a wealthy man goes on an extended journey. He entrusted five talents to one of his servants, two talents to another servant, and one talent to a third. The first two servants immediately put the money to work and doubled the amount by the time the master returned. The third servant hid the talent in a hole in the ground.

What is a talent? In Jesus' time, it was a huge amount of money; according to some scholars, an amount that would take a day laborer 20 years to earn. But we can also read this parable using the current definition of talent, that is, intellectual powers and natural abilities. Interpreted broadly, talents are everything that we have and everything that we are, including our time, our possessions and money, our relationships and God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. In other words, our whole life belongs to God and has been entrusted to us by God.

The challenge in this parable for us is: What will we do with the lavish, generous talents the master has entrusted to us? The third servant, being in fear that the master would punish him if he did not give the master at least the one talent entrusted to him, was immobilized and did nothing but make sure he could produce the talent upon the master's return.

The other servants were called to be God's stewards. They trusted their relationship with the master and took risks to increase their master's talents. Their lives were an adventure! God wants us to live our lives with courageous faith; living an adventure as we take risks by using our talents for the glory of God.



Why do we worship? We worship God in many ways — a stroll in a flower garden, listening to a great choir, appreciating a fine painting or sculpture, or quietly reading the Bible. So perhaps the question should be why do we come together to worship? For me it gives strength to my soul to be with a group hearing the word of God and joining together in various forms of praise. But it's more than that. We gather together because we are instructed in the Bible to gather together. We gather together to derive strength for our daily lives by being together with others in worship. In some parts of the world they gather together (sometimes secretly) because there is strength in numbers and it is a hostile environment for Christians. We gather together because hearing God's word in a community gives the word more vitality. We gather together because singing and praying together better helps us to prepare to go out into the world and share our Christian love. So for these and many more reasons we gather together to worship. As the lure of outdoor activities of summer beckon to us let us not forget that we need to come together to worship as well as enjoy all that God provides for us outside!

George





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

**AllieRose Walker
Darrel Drenth
Riley Rose Mann**

There will be a graduation reception on June 11th following worship to celebrate them!

Additionally, we want to congratulate all graduates from college or other programs. If you have any updates on any other House of Hope grads, please let us know!

**6,000,000 MEALS
30,000 VOLUNTEERS
JUNE 2-5, 2017**
Volunteer to help feed Somalia through the biggest Feed My Starving Children MobilePack ever!
Saint Paul RiverCentre
175 West Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN
Sign up at lovesomalia.org



SYNOD SENIOR BAND CONCERT

Thursday, June 1st
1:00pm
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Bass Lake Road & Hwy 101

The theme of this year's concert is "Marches and Musicals".



**Join us for Vacation Bible School—
Maker Fun Factory!**

Come learn about our great Creator and all the creative talents that we have. Join us at Faith Lilac Way Lutheran Church (on 42nd and Highway 100) Monday, July 24th through Thursday, July 27th from 5:45-8:00pm.

Dinner is served at 5:00pm. All children ages 3 through 6th grade are invited!

Volunteers are needed!

Talk to Pastor Gretchen if interested.

***Don't Forget NEAR & PRISM
This Summer!***

School is almost over for the summer. That means a lot of children, especially children from families who struggle to feed their families, will not be receiving the free meals that are offered through our schools.

Your donations to the NEAR & PRISM food shelves during the summer months are even more important. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the Care Ministry Team shelves in Fellowship Hall. Let's help to make sure that all the children in our communities have nutritious food during the summer months.

Thank you for your continued support for the programs of NEAR & PRISM. You are truly making a difference in peoples' lives.



Volunteers are Needed . . . to help prepare breakfast each Sunday morning before worship. If you can lend a hand just come and join us on Sunday mornings between 7:00 and 7:30am. You don't have to make an every week commitment—come when you can. Enjoy the fun and fellowship of preparing a meal for your fellow members and providing a service to the community as well.



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

- June 4—PENTECOST
Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday
- June 11—Outdoor Worship/Reception for our Graduates/Potluck Picnic
- June 18-26—GERMANY TRIP
- 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)

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

June 12-29

11:45-12:15pm

Monday-Thursday

July 10-August 3

11:15-11:45am

Monday-Thursday

Sponsored by Intermediate District 287



CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

BIRTHDAYS

- 6/1 - Kenneth Larsen
 6/2 - Kirsten Bakken
 Victoria Salvog
 Kay Strating
 6/3 - Lois Erickson
 6/8 - Jake Jacobson
 6/9 - Kevin Hokr
 6/11 - Don Johansen
 6/12 - Annika Larson
 6/15 - Mark Berg
 Gene Moen
 6/18 - Sherry Olson
 6/19 - Lori Gove
 6/21 - Barbara Sorkilmo
 6/25 - Ray Freeberg
 Marlene Truax
 6/28 - Maggie Mans
 6/29 - Tom Broeckel

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/2 - Tim Wold & Leida Cobos
 6/14 - Tom & Lynne McGrath
 6/16 - Tom & Judy Behlke
 6/17 - Kirsten & Jeffrey Bakken
 6/24 - George & Linda Brooke
 6/25 - Stan & Connie Stensaas
 6/28 - Ben & Mae Lou Thompson
 6/30 - Ron & Glorian Anderson

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

★ Thank You! ★ ★ THANK YOU! ★

Thank You to . . .

all who helped make the Spring Plant Sale a success! Many thanks to the people who helped unload and sort plants on delivery day: Annika and Kim Larson, Mark and Carter Jensen, Reuel Persaud, Joe Brehmer, Sandee Rademacher, and Sharon Hatlestad. Thanks to the generosity of House of Hope members, the profit for the youth program was \$550 more than last year. Thank you for your support of our youth!

the following who donated Thrivent Choice dollars to the ministries of House of Hope last month—Lisa Anderson

Thank You from . . .

Luther Seminary for the 1st quarter benevolence gift of \$250 for scholarships

Loaves & Fishes for the 1st quarter benevolence gift of \$300

Home Free for the \$500 gift from the 2016 Lutefisk Dinner sent in April

PRISM for the 1st quarter benevolence gift of \$650

The Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is error, truth;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light;
 And where there is sadness, joy.
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 To be consoled as to console;
 To be understood as to understand;
 To be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 It is in self-forgetting that we find;
 And it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to eternal life.
 Amen.*

SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . . Team #7 will be responsible for July 2017. It will meet on Sunday, June 11, 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 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

Your word
is a
lamp
to my feet
and a
light for my
path.
Psalm 119 vs. 105

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 - June 11, 2017
Service Team #1 - July 9, 2017
Service Team #3 - August 13, 2017
Service Team #5 - September 10, 2017
Service Team #6 - October 8, 2017

Your Service Team Task Force

PARISH NURSE HOURS

Thursdays—11 am-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 July issue of the *Letter of Hope* is June 20th.

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.*



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.