



Letter of Hope May 2017

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



Capital Campaign 2017
Kick-Off Date—Sunday, May 7
Commitment Sunday—Sunday, June 4

Building on the success of our last capital campaign, we are launching another effort to equip House of Hope for mission. Our new mission statement, *“Living out God’s grace, we seek to be neighbors to all,”* calls us into relationship with our neighbors, to be relevant to our communities, to be engaged with the world around us, and to be Jesus’ “real presence” wherever we go. Therefore, we want to take the burden off our annual budget by taking care of some of the significant big-ticket items that are necessary for our church home—things like furnaces and air conditioners, maintenance of our roof and resurfacing the parking lot. At the same time, we want to put our best foot forward as new neighbors come in contact with us, from a new sign on the street, to an updated sanctuary and even a fresh face for our bathrooms.

Our new campaign, **Hope Coming Together**, will be another three-year appeal with a goal of \$350,000 ending May 2020. Once again, the goals of this effort represent the many desires of the entire congregation. Working together, we established a consensus as to what we will accomplish together and we also ranked the prioritization of those goals. You will be receiving mailings in the coming weeks which will describe what our priorities are for this campaign and how you can help.

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!

+ **Pastor's Letter** +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia!

As we enter the month of May, together we celebrate the resurrection. And, along with all the apostles, we wonder what to do now. Initially, the disciples were afraid and didn't believe. But, the resurrected Jesus was out and about working in the world, as he is still today. And, as we move through the season of Easter and into the summer, we begin to hear stories of how people lived out their lives as true apostles after they realized the truth: Jesus is risen! We hear, in Acts, of how the apostles lived out the resurrection: "Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common" (Acts 4:32). Their lives were completely changed by this resurrected Jesus.

This is how we hope to live: completely changed, set free from fears and doubts, ready to live together in harmony. The difficult part is figuring out how to do this. As we begin the Easter Season, we reflect on our new mission statement "*Living out God's grace, we seek to be neighbors to all.*" One of the ways we are living into this mission as a church is by kicking off our capital campaign, *Hope Coming Together*, on Sunday, May 7th!

As we consider how we serve our neighborhood and our community, one of our main assets is our building. We host Cooper High School team dinners and student exams, we welcome Christ's Kingdom Fellowship, we house Boy Scout troops, we have meetings of local pastors, we gather as quilters and small jobs workers and library helpers, we worship together to proclaim the word of God, we learn about our faith in small groups. Our building allows us to serve our community and our neighborhood; with this in mind, we voted at our annual meeting to embark on a capital campaign over the next three years to raise money to improve our building. As we kick off this campaign, with goals to fix the roof,

to put money toward the heating and air conditioning units, to update the sanctuary seating, to purchase a new sign for out front, to update our parking lot, and to renovate our south bathrooms, we remember that our mission is to serve our neighbors. We continue to explore ways to welcome the community into the space and to share the grace of God as we ourselves go out into the community. We work to live out our faith in this newly resurrected Christ. The capital campaign is one way that we live into this truth and grace.

Make sure to come to church on May 7th to learn more about how you can be involved in this ministry and mission!

Christ has risen, indeed, from the dead!
Alleluia!

Blessings on your Easter Season,
Pastor Gretchen

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Christ Is Risen!! What a glorious time. We just had a glorious celebration of the Risen Lord! It's May and the earth is springing to life with green grass and flowers popping out. Truly God's goodness surrounds us and the music of our worship reflects this!

On Sunday May 7, the Hope Bells ring *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* by Jeffrey Honoré; May 14 the Hope Chorale sings *Let the Praise Go 'Round* by William Boyce and arranged by Hal H. Hopson; Sunday, May 21, the Hope Chorale sings *Jesu Joy—My Joy Forever* by J.S. Bach and the Hope Bells ring *Joyful Canticle* by Kevin McChesney.

George

Stewardship Corner

So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. Luke 14:33

In preparation for our capital campaign, **Hope Coming Together**, the cost of each item on our list was estimated. The cost for items such as a new roof and chairs is measurable. The cost of following Jesus is more than any of these items. God wants our total commitment.

House of Hope has done capital campaigns in the past. We did not ask our members to give up all their possessions. However, we did challenge ourselves to prayerfully consider a commitment with some financial sacrifice. By the end of those campaigns, many members had made a contribution and God's work was alive in new ways.

As faithful stewards, our past experience gives us hope in two ways. First, God will provide. God has the resources to furnish the items that we want from this capital campaign and to build our lives. An appropriate question may be, "Are we willing to receive what God has to offer us?"

Second, it is freeing to know that everything belongs to God. As a disciple and steward, we are called to be faithful with what God has entrusted to us. It is not about collecting our own resources so that we can have what is needed, but accepting what God provides and using it for God's work.

O God, we've wasted; we've complained; we've grumbled. We've misused our resources; we've confused our needs with our wants. For these sins God, forgive us. Help us reset our priorities according to Your will, that our faith might grow as we witness and share Your great abundance. Amen.



Come enjoy an afternoon of wonderful music for a good cause! House of Hope is supporting ISIAH's Sanctuary Network in many ways and now we're supporting it with music. On Sunday, May 21, there will be a Choral Benefit Concert in support of ISIAH's Sanctuary Network. That afternoon choirs from six churches will gather to "sing for Sanctuary." Each choir will present one or two selections and then there will be a grand finale with all the choirs together. You can help support the Sanctuary Movement. All you need to do is attend the concert, enjoy the wonderful singing and contribute to the free will offering.

The churches participating in the benefit concert are Resurrection Lutheran Church, House of Hope Lutheran Church, Church of All Nations, Calvary Lutheran Church, Macalester Plymouth United Church, and Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. The concert will start at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N Dale Street, Saint Paul. Come enjoy an afternoon of good music for a good cause.

*I will sing to the Lord,
for He has been good to me.
—Psalms 13:6*



THANK YOU . . . to all who supported the youth through Palms and Pastries ButterBraid Sales! We appreciate your support that allows us to offer youth events throughout the year and helps our youth be able to participate in summer trips.

Youth Plant Sale Pick . . . Saturday, May 13th! Come to church to pick up your plants between 5:00 and 6:00pm. If that time slot doesn't work for you, contact Karen Brehmer at Karen.brehmer@comcast.net or call her at 612-799-7069 to make other arrangements.



Dishes Looking for Homes . . .

Have you brought some food up to church recently for a funeral or other church activity which involved a meal? Did you remember to take your dish back home with you? Please check out the church kitchen next time you are here. We have some lonely dishes looking for their owners and we would like to see them reunited!

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

Almost every adult benefits from a basic estate plan. A basic estate plan includes a will, power of attorney, and health care directive (and for some people a trust, too). Together these documents can provide you with peace of mind, provide direction for your medical decisions when you are unable to do so, protect your assets, and provide for your loved ones and the ministries about which you are passionate during your life and/or after your death. An estate plan is an expression of your stewardship for the blessings God has entrusted to your care.

Andrew Carlson of Carlson Law Office will be at St. James Lutheran Church on May 8 at 10:00am to share information about why a basic estate plan is beneficial for you and your loved ones.

You do not need to pre-register; just show up on May 8 if you are interested. There is no cost for this seminar. Refreshments will be provided. This event is being sponsored by the St. James Endowment Committee.



FOR SENIORS . . .

Wednesday, May 10
11:30am
First Lutheran Church of
Crystal
Potluck Lunch (bring a
favorite dish to share)
Free will offering.
Entertainment will be a
puppet show.



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—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)

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

School will be over for the summer before we know it. 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.

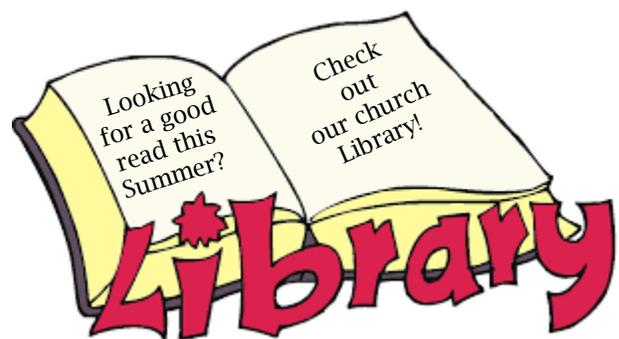
Your donations to the NEAR & PRISM food shelves during the summer months are even more important. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the Care Ministry Team shelves in Fellowship Hall. Let's help to make sure that all the children in our communities have nutritious food during the summer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

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

Life is . . .

Life is an opportunity,
benefit from it.
Life is bliss, taste it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is a sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is too precious,
do not destroy it.
Life is life, fight for it.

—Mother Teresa





CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 - Nancy Elliott
Nate Gove
Shirley Hahn
Bob Pray
- 5/2 - Ben Allen
- 5/3 - Leida Cobos
- 5/4 - Bob Bonsen
- 5/12 - Tanis Agar
- 5/13 - Parker Ellis
Sam Wangen
Patty Wiese
- 5/15 - Arlene Chenvert
Emily Nightengale
Molly Olson
- 5/16 - George Brooke
Lynn Bursell
- 5/19 - Emma Fretag
Lee Ann Quigley
Gretchen Rode
- 5/23 - Gary Freese
Barbara Nelson
- 5/24 - Kathy Johnson
- 5/25 - Nick Gove
Marlin Haney
- 5/26 - Anna Drenth
- 5/27 - Everett Ellis
- 5/28 - Mary Sundeen

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/3 - Randy & Rose Wangen
- 5/20 - Gary & Patti Remple
- 5/21 - Mark & Peggy Berg
Mike & Julie Johansen
- 5/28 - Mark & Ronna Vinge
- 5/29 - Darrel & Karen Hamann

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

Our Church Family . . .

Births—

Natalia Harlynn Kukachka born April 24 to Jake & Melissa Kukachka. She is the 13th grandchild of Mike & Pat Kukachka.

Deaths—

Sharon Burshiem on April 14. The funeral was held in Wadena, MN. Deepest sympathy to husband, Steve and son, Lucas, and to Betty & Orv Johnson, aunt and uncle.

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Thank You . . . to the following members who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to the ministries of House of Hope this past month: Stan & Connie Stensaas

Dear House of Hope Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for giving \$500 (Lutefisk Dinner proceeds) in March. Your gift makes sure 2,272 nutritious meals get to precious, beautiful kids in need! What you're doing is so essential. You're providing life. I simply can't say thank you enough. Kids will be fed because of you. Food given from your hands makes a powerful difference and gives them hope for their future. Thank you. May God richly bless you for your generosity. ***"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely . . ." - Psalm 112:5***

Mark Crea, Executive Director/CEO
Feed My Starving Children

Dear House of Hope,
Sincere thanks for your recent gift of \$500 (Lutefisk Dinner proceeds) to the Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door program.

Sincerely,
Dinner At Your Door Board.

SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . . Team #6 will be responsible for June 2017. It will meet on Sunday, May 14, 2017, after the worship service (10:00am) to volunteer for the month's tasks. Please come to the meeting and sign up for as many tasks as you can. **SUPPORT YOUR TEAMMATES BY ATTENDING THE MEETING.** The members of Team #6 are:

Muriel Armstrong	Tom & Becky Broeckel
George & Linda Brooke	Jim & Lynn Bursell
Carol Darg	Gale Friedrich
Richard & Shirley Fulmer	Luis Gonzalez Alvarado & Jennifer Luke Gonzalez
Burt & Eunice Gran	Mark & Jill Jensen & Carter
Sharee Johnson	Pat Kukachka
Kim Larson	Gene & Linda Moen
Bill Morrill	Barbara Nelson
Erin Paulsen	Loretta Quick
Stan & Connie Stensaas	John & Martha Thompson
Joe & Debbie Trombley	Glen & Karen Vetter
Tim & Leida Wold & Ceci & Sofia	
George Zirbes & Peggy Anderson	



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

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 #6 - May 14, 2017
 Service Team #7 - June 11, 2017
 Service Team #1 - July 9, 2017
 Service Team #3 - August 13, 2017
 Service Team #5 - September 10, 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 June issue of the *Letter of Hope* is May 20th.



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

HOUSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling Congregation

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Phone: (763) 533-3341 FAX: (763) 531-9006
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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.