



Election Eve Prayer Service

Monday, November 7th from 6:00-7:30pm Open House Prayer Service
Prayers, scripture, and hymns at the hour and half hour. Contemplative music to support personal prayer. Come and go as you journey home from work or after dinner.
Valley of Peace Lutheran Church, 4735 Bassett Creek Dr, Golden Valley

Election Reflection—During this election season, our country has been rife with fear, agitation, and dissent. As we head to the polls on November 8th, we seek to be guided by our faith. We believe that, regardless of the election result, our God will continue to reign supreme. We know that God's love that lives through us will continue to be strong. We are thankful to live in a country with democratic elections, where our votes do not put us in peril. We pray together that this election of new leaders might be a step toward a more harmonious country, a more just nation, a better place for all—rich and poor, strong and weak, people of all backgrounds and colors and ethnicities. We seek to be a nation for all. In First Timothy, we read *"I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity."* So, we join in prayer that our election would bring leaders who will help us to usher in the kingdom of God, day by day. And we pray for our country and our leaders.

Prayer for the Election

Creator God, our great ruler, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city, state, and country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children, and of men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voices of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth.

Bless our chosen leaders, Lord, grant that they would have wisdom, seek truth, and serve with grace, that their service would guide us as a people to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

+ Pastor's Letter +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

The Ministry Leadership Team has been deliberating over a new mission statement for our congregation this entire year. We had several goals as we worked on this. First of all, we wanted something that was easy to remember because we want it to be a phrase that all of us can learn easily. But this goal was not simply to come up with something short; we wanted to create something that can quickly be summoned by anyone planning and doing ministry here. That way every ministry team and even all members can keep our common mission and focus in mind in all that they do on behalf of House of Hope.

Secondly, we wanted to clarify that our mission is more than what happens in our church building. One of the ongoing challenges for many congregations is that they have ceased to reflect the communities in which they are located. One reason for that is that they have become disconnected with the people in their own neighborhoods. We want relationships with our neighbors so important and so strong that we not only know who they are but also what needs might exist right next door. In that sense, we want to establish that everyone who lives around House of Hope and all its members are in our "parish" or territory. Our priority isn't "membership" but rather it is being in relationship with people.

Most of all, we wanted to be clear about our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Following Jesus is more than sharing a common hope and faith; it is sharing the love and grace of God with everyone we meet; it is seeking out those that might otherwise be hidden, or left out, or ignored; it is being as concerned about the challenges others face as we are of our own and doing something about it; it is living with joy and hope every day. After all, we have the incredible love of God and grace to share!

After coming up with many variations and proposals we finally settled on this mission statement:

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

I invite you to live with this new mission statement and try it on for size. We will take some time at the congregational meeting in January to use this to chart the course for our life and work together as we begin another year of faith at House of Hope.

Pastor Mark

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FORUMS FOR NOVEMBER—

- Nov. 6— *"Making the Most of Life; A Survey of Christian Stewardship"*
- Nov. 13— Consecration Celebration Brunch/Lunch
- Nov. 20— Stewardship and Finance Ministry Teams will describe their ongoing work on our behalf
- Nov. 27— Operations Ministry Team will do the same



**It's Lutfisk &
Meatball
Supper Time!!!
Friday, Nov. 4, 2016**

Tickets are still available for the 3:30 & 7:30 seatings. So if you haven't purchased yours yet, call the church office TODAY! And don't forget the wonderful Craft & Bake Sale. Our members and friends of House of Hope have been working hard all year to create new crafts for your holiday gifts or to decorate your own home for the holidays!

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Participants in the Thrivent Financial
Matching Gift Program



This month's Stewardship Corner was going to discuss Jesus' warning that we cannot serve God and money, but Pastor Gretchen provided this list of characteristics of a Biblical Giver, which is perfect for us to think and pray about right before Consecration Sunday. It is from Chapter 4 of *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles R. Lane.

The Spirituality of Giving:
How do you become a spiritual giver?

Be Intentional - *Develop a plan for your giving and live to the plan.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - Paul writes, "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion."

Be Regular - *Whenever you receive income, give according to your plan.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 - Paul writes, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come."

Be Generous - *"As Christians, one of our key faith statements must be that we will always have enough, because God provides us with all we need."* (From page 49 of *Ask Thank Tell*)

Luke 12:34 - Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2 Corinthians 9:8 - Paul writes, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

Be a Giver First to God - *After deciding your plan, give to God first and live off the rest.*

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 - "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name."

Be Proportional - *Those who have much wealth are expected to give proportionately, those who have little wealth are also expected to give proportionately.*

Mark 12:41-44 - "Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

Be Cheerful - *Practicing other giving values listed above, this often falls into place!*

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Paul writes, "God loves a cheerful giver."

Luke 12:32-34 - Jesus says, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Here is the main point: What you do with your money (and your time) shows what you value! Valuing the work of the church. or valuing God's work in other ways, should be reflected in your time and money. In this way, you can "act your way into a new way of thinking." (From page 55 of *Ask, Thank, Tell*)

If a splash of color is what you need right now, you have come to the right place! The House of Hope Quilters have readied three quilts for the SILENT AUCTION during Lutefisk Supper week. There are two of the twin size with colors of the rainbow and trucks on them. The purple and lavender quilt is a queen size. Watch for the display in the narthex.



The weather is beautiful and it doesn't feel like winter is approaching, but it's November. November brings us to the end of the church year and several celebrations close together: All Saints, the consecration of our giving estimates, Thanksgiving, the celebration of Christ the King and then the First Sunday of Advent as we launch into a new church year.

As is our custom, our musical groups have been hard at work preparing music that helps us reflect on the meaning of these various celebrations. On November 6, the Hope Chorale will sing *Behold a Host Arrayed in White* by Bradley Ellingboe. Sunday, November 13, the Hope Bells will ring *Festive Air* by Sandra Eithun. November 20, the Hope Chorale will sing *The King!* by Ken Mann arranged by Mary McDonald. We start the new church year, Advent One, on November 27 with the Hope Chorale singing *Waiting* by Thomas Keesecker.

George

Concordia College Christmas Concert

As some of you know, we have two students at Concordia College, Moorhead this year who will be participating in the annual Christmas concerts—Graham Remple and Leah Jensen. The concerts in Moorhead are being televised later in December. If you are interested in purchasing tickets they go on sale November 1 and may be purchased online and they sell quickly. The concerts in Minneapolis at Orchestra Hall are Thursday, December 8 at 6:00 and 8:30pm. Those tickets can be purchased at www.mimnesotaorchestra.org. Those wishing to sit together should order their tickets together.



SENIOR MINISTRY . . . Potluck Lunch—Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 11:30am at First Lutheran Church of Crystal. (Bring a favorite dish to share.) Free will offering. Entertainment will be Greenwood Celtic Music.



HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS FOR NEAR & PRISM

Once again we will be collecting items for the holiday food baskets distributed by NEAR and PRISM to their client families. Below are lists of the holiday food items requested and also of everyday needs at the food shelves. Please bring your donations to the Care Ministry corner in Fellowship Hall. And, as always, thank you for your generosity in giving to help make the holidays happier for our neighbors in need!

HOLIDAY NEEDS

Stuffing Mix
Pumpkin & Yams
Pineapple & Cranberries
Fruit Cocktail
Cookies & Candy
Canned Oranges
Pie Mix (any kind)
Canned Milk
Corn & Green Beans
Money to buy Meat
Gift Certificates

EVERYDAY NEEDS

Peanut Butter & Jelly
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Crackers & Cookies
Jello & Pudding
Pork & Beans
Rice, Sugar & Flour
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa
Canned & Boxed Meals
Cereal—All Kinds
Soups—All Kinds
Paper Goods/Cleaning Supplies

The NEAR Cap & Mitten

Tree will be set up in the narthex the week after the Lutefisk Dinner. Please add new caps and mittens or gloves to the tree so we can help families in need stay warm this winter.



Wildfire Confirmation— Birthday Party at Holy Nativity on Nov. 2nd 6:30-7:45pm All Confirmation Age Students Invited!

Most of our time will be spent playing games and eating cake. BUT, this is also a service event. Please ask your students and families to bring a gift they'd like to receive that will be donated to PRISM. The teenager gift shelves at PRISM are embarrassingly low. This is a chance for us to fill them up!! Since teenagers know what teenagers like, this is an opportunity for our students to be generous by giving away something they'd like to receive. There's no need to go overboard. A \$15-\$20 gift is perfect. Tell your families NOT to wrap them—if they're wrapped, families "shopping" at PRISM can't see what they are!



CHRISTMAS GIFT TABLE

We will be collecting Christmas gifts again this year for NEAR and PRISM and for the Plymouth Christian Youth Center. Tables will be set up in the narthex outside of Fellowship Hall the week after the Lutefisk Supper. Check the table for a list of items that are needed by each agency. You have been so very generous in past years in helping to make the holidays happier for families in need. We thank you and ask for your continued support.



CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 - Blake Sundeen
- 11/2 - Carol Roberts
- 11/4 - Virgie Robinson
- 11/5 - Joe Merila
- 11/9 - Arianna Zirbes
- 11/10 - Tom Behlke
Britta Walstrom
- 11/12 - Rod Olson
Rose Wangen
- 11/13 - Mona Rae Wanous
Marian Wesley
- 11/15 - Eunice Gran
- 11/16 - Millie Freese
- 11/20 - Becky Broeckel
Ryan Montgomery
- 11/23 - Olivia Sundeen
- 11/25 - Ella Mae Bjorkman
- 11/26 - Chris Bearl
- 11/30 - Erik Nyquist

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/9 - Jim & Lynette Neus
- 11/14 - Burt & Eunice Gran
- 11/23 - Eric & Maria Hanson

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

PLYMOUTH ROCKERS SENIOR CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3:00pm
at Wayzata Central Middle
School, 305 Vicksburg Rd,
Plymouth.

Our Church Family . . .

Christian Sympathy to . . .

the family of Laurie Haight, member of House of Hope, who passed away on September 18.

Baptism . . .

Cora Brooke Stupnik, daughter of Todd & Joyce, on October 16. George & Linda Brooke are grandparents.

From ME to WE:

Free Thrivent Financial Workshop (for engaged and newly married couples)

Looking for a way to build a solid financial understanding before joining your finances in marriage? Engaged or newly married couples are encouraged to attend this helpful workshop Saturday, November 12 from 9-10 am on combining finances and establishing goals. Start right away with expert guidance on this important marital task. Learn to identify your values and attitudes about money and see how they may differ from your partner's. Set common goals for your future and discover ways to help reduce financial stressors in your marriage. The free course is presented by Maple Grove Lutheran Members: Lucas Ahlberg, Financial Consultant with Thrivent Financial and Mary Fenske, Estate Planning Attorney and MGLC Wedding Coordinator. RSVP to Pastor Christine Chiles. revchiles@mglc.org

Maple Grove Lutheran Church is located at 9251 Elm Creek Blvd. Visit mglc.org or call [763.420.7930](tel:763.420.7930) for more information.



CHRISTMAS CHILD

SHOEBOXES . . .

are available on a table in the narthex. Please take one, or two, or whatever you wish. We want to do our part in making Christmas a little happier for children around the world. There is a list of suggestions for each age

group. The packed boxes will be picked up during the week of November 14-21. Thank you for your help in spreading joy to children this Christmas. —Care Ministry Team

SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . . Team #5 will be responsible for December 2016. They will meet on Sunday, November 13, 2016, to volunteer for the month's tasks. **SUPPORT YOUR TEAMMATES BY ATTENDING THE MEETING.** (Many hands make light work.) The members of Team #5 are:

Kenneth & Tanis Agar	Ben & Kris Allen
Christine Beck	Bob & Jody Bonsen
Len & Pat Carlson	Tim & Shannon Dahl & Delaney & Reggie
Ken & Lois Erickson	Shawn & Michelle Follmer
Andy & Wendy Fretag & Emma	Nate & Lori Gove
Tom & Debbie Haney	John & Theresa Henderson
Marlene Holmquist	Eleanor Hunsberger
Lisa Loehrs & Taylor & Neriah	Dennis & Cathie Martenson
Tom & Lynne McGrath	David Nelson
Floyd Olson	Ashton & Swaro Persaud
Daniel Persaud	Reuel Persaud
Mark Pilon	Mike & Robyn Quam
Karen Schaupp	Mandy Scott
Phyllis Snustad	Barbara Sorkilmo
Kay Strating	Sara Utt
Nancy Walker	Randy & Rose Wangen
Marian Wesley	Bunny Zeisel

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 #5 - November 13, 2016
 Service Team #6 - December 11, 2016
 Service Team #7 - January 8, 2017
 Service Team #1 - February 12, 2017
 Service Team #3 - March 12, 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 December issue of the *Letter of Hope* is November 20th.



House of Hope Staff

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 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)
 8:00pm—*Libations with the
 Living Word* (HyVee)

Mission Statement

At House of Hope Lutheran Church we create a caring, loving community in Christ, nurture spiritual growth, and proclaim the Gospel, bringing people into a personal relationship with Christ.



House of Hope Lutheran Church
A "Bonfire" Congregation
4800 Boone Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55428

HOUSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A "Bonfire" Congregation
4800 Boone Avenue North New Hope, MN 55428
Phone: (763) 533-3341 FAX: (763) 531-9006
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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.