

*“O give thanks  
unto the LORD”*

## **Letter of Hope November 2017**

**House of Hope Lutheran Church**

**New Hope, MN**

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

### **COMMITMENT SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 19TH!**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes so that "like good stewards of the manifold grace of God [we may] serve one another with whatever gift each of [us] has received" (I Peter 4:10).

Our congregation's Stewardship Ministry Team has again reflected on the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We remember that "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it" (Psalm 24:1) as we consider how to steward the gifts of God that we possess. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Commitment Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Commitment Sunday for "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). We urge people to attend even if they do not fill out a card that day; the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels any awkwardness if he or she does not fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship Pastor Mark will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship and offering.

We will encourage participation in Commitment Sunday events through the Stewardship Ministry Team and the Leadership Ministry Team. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire and commit everyone to attend Commitment Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Commitment Sunday events.

Karen Brehmer, House of Hope President

## + *Pastor's Letter* +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

As the leaves continue to drop and blanket our yards with brilliant reds and yellows, and the temperatures start to drop so that we reach for our scarves and coats before heading outside, we begin to plan for this month of Thanksgiving. In our hectic world, setting aside a day for giving thanks can get lost in planning a meal and cleaning the house, not to mention dealing with turmoil in the news or in our communities. So many of us are dealing with health issues, or mourning a dear one, or struggling with the mundane routine that seems to settle in during the winter. The coming season can be a dark one for many.

And yet, we take time this month to give thanks. I wonder what could come if we truly took this month as a time of thanksgiving, taking a moment every day to reflect on something or someone for which we are grateful. Studies show that gratitude practices increase feelings of positivity and optimism. Gratitude is also a wonderful way to reconnect with God. It doesn't have to be a difficult practice; it's just taking a moment every day to give thanks to God for someone in your life, something in our community or in our church, something that makes you smile. Maybe do it right when you wake up - anticipating something to come in the day. Or before bed - consider the whole day and give thanks for moments of joy that popped up. Or it could be a family practice - around the dinner table or over a group text.

For what are you thankful?

We can be thankful for family members or friends, a kind comment from a stranger, a funny joke we encounter, a beautiful sunshiny day, a pet, a feeling of comfort, a special Bible verse, a certain aspect of church.

There are so many things at House of Hope to give thanks for; I'm especially thankful this month for the many ways that our congregation especially welcomes children and youth and makes them feel so at home and so included in our church building and congregational life.

Thanks to you for your effort in this and thanks be to God!

Psalm 136: "O give thanks to the God of heaven, for God's steadfast love endures forever!"

May you feel the steadfast love of our Creator this month and always. Happy Thanksgiving!

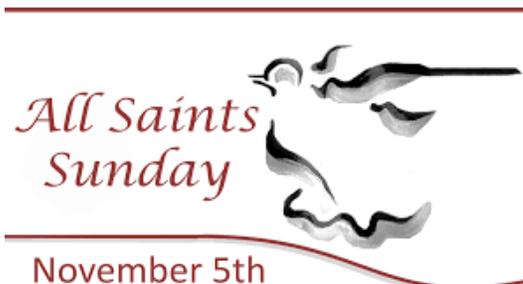
Pastor Gretchen

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### ADULT FORUM—NOVEMBER 12

On Sunday, November 12th, Laura Struck will be telling us about her work with WOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms). Laura spent 17 months with these experiences in far-off places. Join us for the forum at 10:00am following worship on November 12th and find out where she traveled and worked.





**37th ANNUAL LUTEFISK & MEATBALL SUPPER**  
**3 November 2017**

**Participants in the Thrivent Financial Matching Gift Program**



*This Sunbonnet Sue quilt will be displayed in the narthex and put up for silent auction bids at the Lutenisk Supper*

**Thanksgiving**  
*Eve Service*

**BONFIRE THANKSGIVING EVE  
SERVICE**  
**Wednesday, November 22**  
**7:00pm**  
**St. James Lutheran Church,**  
**Crystal**



**WOMEN OF ALL AGES!**

Join us for the Wildfire Women's Luncheon on Sunday, November 12th from 12-1:30pm at First Lutheran Church of Crystal. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will join us as we share food and fellowship and discuss the topic of Women in Leadership. Cost is \$10 per person. Sign up in the narthex and talk to Pastor Gretchen if you have questions.



As we come to November light is fading away as our days grow shorter. Similarly, in the church, in November we enter the “end days” of the church year. But in both cases we know that the light will be returning! So it is a time of hope and remembrance not a time of sadness!

In November we have several celebrations. We start November with the celebration of All Saints Sunday when we celebrate the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ and rejoice in their gifts. For our celebration this year we will have a string ensemble to help lead our music and add to the celebration. The prelude will be *Konzert in C for Organ and Strings* by Joseph Haydn. The Hope Chorale will sing *Angels Visit When We Sing* by K. Lee Scott. Sunday, November 12, the Hope Bells will ring *Come, Thou Almighty King* by Sandra Eithun; on November 19, the Hope Chorale will sing *Alleluia, Praise the Lord!* by Nancy Price and Don Besig. Sunday, November 26, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday and the Hope Chorale will sing *Thou Who Wast God* by Katherine K. Davis.

There are many exciting things happening in November. Join us for the celebrations!

George



### READ ALL ABOUT . . . Martin Luther

“Check out” the books on the library desk and on the south wall bookshelf

ALSO: 2 DVD’s are available for your viewing.

See You In the Library!



*Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collection will have to be made.*

*I Corinthians 16:1-2*

In this passage, Paul discusses one of his passions, giving by the churches to spread the Good News and to care for the poor. In particular, he directs the Corinthians to give regularly (on the first day of every week) and in proportion to each person’s prosperity.

Giving systematically is the key to faithful giving.

- If we set up a system whereby we give regularly, our giving is not affected by our mood. We don’t just give when we feel like it or when we’ve heard a dramatic appeal for money. We give when the time comes, as we have set it up.
- Some people find it difficult to give away their hard-earned money. Their money is a part of them and they go through a grieving process when they part with it. By setting up regular giving, you make a “painful” decision once a year, instead of every time you decide to give.
- Regularity can also save us from self-deception. If we give nothing for a time, then give a sizable gift in response to a heartstring appeal, we may deceive ourselves into believing that we are very generous. If, in fact, the amount of that gift was spread over a year, we may find that it is really not so generous.

*Father, you are the most generous giver of all. Your giving isn’t sporadic or hit-and-miss; you bless me all the time. Teach me to give as you give, with an open heart and open hands. Amen.*



**JAM (Jesus and Me)** for 5th graders will be Wednesday, November 8th from 5-6pm!

**WILDFIRE CONFIRMATION**—is at Valley of Peace on Wednesday, November 1st from 6:30-7:45pm.

**REFORMATION CONFIRMATION**—is on Sunday, November 5th from 1-4pm. We will study Stewardship this month.

**YOUTH (grades 6-12)** - are invited to join us for SkyZone and pizza on Friday, November 10th. Talk to Pastor Gretchen if you're interested.

**ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN HOUSTON!** All youth completing grades 8-12 are invited to join us as we travel to the National Lutheran Youth Gathering next summer! The trip will be June 25th—July 2nd. Talk to Pastor Gretchen for more details. Early registration ends November 15th.



### Now is the time to order poinsettias for Christmas!!

The Worship and the Arts Team is taking orders for poinsettias. You may order poinsettias to be used for decorating our sanctuary (which you may take home after Christmas services) and you may order poinsettias for your home and for gifts. Our poinsettias are top quality, locally grown poinsettias from Malmborg's Greenhouse. These large plants with abundant color will brighten our sanctuary and your home through the holidays and beyond. The traditional red poinsettias are \$8.00 for a 4.5" pot, \$14.00 for a 6.5" pot and \$28.00 for an 8" pot.

Members of the Worship and the Arts team will be available in the narthex to take your order on Sundays, November 5 and 12.

### CARE MINISTRY CONCERNS

*"Blessed is he who is kind to those in need."*

Proverbs 14:21

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoe boxes are in the narthex for you to pick up and fill with gifts for children around the world. Choose the gender and age of a child, return the box or boxes to the table with \$9.00 inside (if you are able) for postage and handling. Ideas for gifts and items to avoid are on the table.

HOME FREE, a shelter for women and children in crisis in Plymouth needs the following things:

toothbrushes	notebooks
full-size deodorant	folders
full-size bar soap	markers and pens
full-size hair conditioner	

These items may be placed in the CARE MINISTRY corner of Fellowship Hall.

### NEAR & PRISM

These local food shelves are always in need of canned goods, baking items such as flour, sugar, etc. Place these items in the CARE cabinet in Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU FOR CARING!



## CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

### BIRTHDAYS

11/1 - Blake Sundeen  
 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 - Mildred 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 & Lynnette 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).

### *Our Church Family . . .*

#### *Births . . .*

Herbert Jeremy LeMire on September 14 to Amanda & Jeremy LeMire. Grandparents are Gary & Chris Bearl.

#### *Baptisms . . .*

- Layla Lynn Ebert, daughter of Stephanie Bonsen & Markus Ebert, on October 22. Grandparents are Bob & Jody Bonsen.
- Nora Katherine Walstrom, daughter of Britta & Rick Walstrom. Grandparents are Gil & Mary Sundeen.



**St. James**  
**25th Annual Lutefisk**  
**Dinner**  
**Saturday, November 18th**  
 Seatings at 4, 5 & 6pm  
 Tickets—\$18  
 Advance Tickets Only  
 For information or to order tickets call  
 763-537-3653  
 (Monday-Wednesday).

### **38th ANNUAL ADVENT VESPERS**

For more than three decades, Augsburg University has ushered in the Advent and Christmas seasons with Advent Vespers, a magnificent experience of music and liturgy, focusing on the theme of preparation and culminating in the joyful celebration of the Incarnation. Advent Vespers is set in downtown Minneapolis



in the majestic sanctuary of Central Lutheran Church. The dates for this year's Advent Vespers are Thursday, November 30 at 8pm (Open Final Rehearsal); Friday, December 1 at 5 & 8pm; and Saturday, December 2 at 2 & 5pm.

Reservations may be made online at  
[augsburg.edu/music/vespers](http://augsburg.edu/music/vespers)

**SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . .** Team #7 will be responsible for December 2017. It will meet on Sunday, November 12, 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	Steve Burshiem & Lucas
Arlene Chenvert	Marilyn Eggert
Nancy Elliott	Mildred Freese
Ryan & Kaela Halupnick	Ross & Virginia Hansing
Eric Hanson	Kevin & Amber Hokr
Tim & Nancy Horsch	Don & Jean Johansen
Arlen & Sharon Johnson	Orv & Betty Johnson
Arne & Carolyn Larson	Deb Mans
Lee Olson	Joe & Sandee Rademacher
Todd & Joyce Stupnik	Clarice Sulzbach
Harold & Marlene Truax	Paul & Cheryl Wallenfelt
Patty Wiese	



**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 - November 12, 2017  
 Service Team #1 - December 10, 2017  
 Service Team #3 - January 14, 2018  
 Service Team #5 - February 11, 2018  
 Service Team #6 - March 11, 2018  
 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.

#### 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

#### Sunday Schedule

FREE Breakfast—8:00am  
 Worship—9:00am  
 Sunday School—10:00am  
 Adult Forum/Coffee—10:00am  
 Christ's Kingdom Assemblies  
 Ministries—11:00am

#### Weekly Bible Studies—

Wednesday:  
 Men's Bible Study—6:30am  
 at Country Kitchen  
 Bible Study—10:30am  
 at church  
 CKAM Bible Study—7:00pm  
 at church  
 Thursday:  
 Women's Bible Study—9:30am

#### Mission Statement

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

**The deadline for the December issue of the *Letter of Hope* is November 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.