



Letter of Hope

October 2016

**House of Hope Lutheran Church
A Bonfire Congregation**

Mark Vinge & Gretchen Rode, Pastors

Mark your Calendars NOW!

36th ANNUAL LUTEFISK & MEATBALL SUPPER

4 November 2016



Donations of **HOMEMADE CRAFTS & ITEMS**
needed for **CRAFT SALE**

(Questions? - Call Catherine Martenson 763-537-5295)

TICKET SALES - Sunday, October 2nd - 8:00am
Tickets Available in Church Office—
Monday-Thursday (763-533-3341)
and Sunday mornings

TICKET PRICE - \$18/Adults \$8/children (3-12 yrs)

ROSETTE DAY - Monday, October 24th - 9:00am
FATTIGMANN DAY - Monday, October 31 - 9:00am

WATCH FOR INFO & SIGN-UP SHEETS
in Sunday Bulletins and Narthex Display

Participants in the Thrivent Financial Matching Gift Program

INSIDE . . .

Pastor's Letter
October Sermon Series & October Forums
Music, Education & Youth News
Bonfire/Wildfire News . . . and more!

+ **Pastor's Letter** +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Holy Creator. This October we begin the year-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In 1517, Martin Luther, a humble monk serving the Catholic Church pounded his 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg. The 95 Theses reflected his deep study of the Bible and encouraged his church, the Roman Catholic Church, to reform to reflect the word of God as he understood it. The Catholic Church did not accept this critique and their dispute eventually led to the Protestant Reformation, with the Lutheran Church forming a new church body. Today, this might seem far back in our history. After all, we just celebrated the "Declaration of the Way," 32 statements of agreement that the ELCA and the Catholic Church hold together that our church accepted at the recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August. But, even as we move closer to a deeper ecumenism with other churches and explore interfaith work through ISAIAH and our local community, we still find deep identity in being ELCA Lutherans. And, as we explore our history, we find that many of the things that Martin Luther stood for 500 years ago are things that we still live out in our church today.

To embrace this anniversary and to remember who we are as ELCA Lutherans, we will be focusing our worship at House of Hope during October on the theme of Reformation. Each week will highlight one topic that Martin Luther brought up during the Reformation and we will reflect together on what this means for us today. October 2nd we will consider Tradition and the Gospel and think about when the Word of God is pushing us to move past long-held traditions. On October 9th, we will discuss the Freedom of the Christian: how we are saved by grace to be the servant to others. On October 16th, we will discuss Faith in the Home. Martin Luther insisted on translating the Bible into the language of the people. What does this access to God's Holy Word allow us? How do we use it? On October 23rd, we will delve into Faith in Life and our Vocation. Luther insisted that each of us, pastors and teachers and garbage men alike are

called into our work and our daily life as Christians. On October 30th, as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday, we will discuss what it means to continue to be a Reforming Church. The Reformation happened 500 years ago, but it opened the door for us to be a church that is always transforming and deepening in our relationship to the Gospel and to the guidance of Christ.

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert," says the Lord in Isaiah 43.

We look forward to this celebration and deep look at who we are. In this, we always remember whose we are: that we belong to Jesus Christ who loves us deeply in our quest for knowledge and in our lives together, who is always inviting us into a new thing.

Blessings on your autumn,
Pastor Gretchen



New Hope Community 25th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Friday, Oct. 28, 7:00-8:30am we will be participating in the 25th annual prayer breakfast. The event will celebrate the ability of everyone even as we consider those who have been challenged with what some describe as "disabilities". The event is held right next door at the New Hope Community Gymnasium at Cooper High School. Let's support this wonderful ecumenical event that seeks to build unity and understanding in our communities. Tickets are \$10. See sign up in the narthex. Talk to Pastor Mark if you have questions.



This October we're celebrating aspects of the Reformation all month as we look forward to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Musically we're emphasizing hymns by Martin Luther and organ music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Sunday, October 2, we will be singing the Luther hymn *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*. The organ prelude will be a setting of *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* by the American composer Walter Pelz. As you listen to this prelude notice how the three parts of Mr. Pelz' music reflects the three verses of the hymn. The offertory music will be a setting of *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now!* by J. S. Bach. The Hope Chorale will sing *Free to Serve* by Elaine Aune. Sunday, October 9, our featured hymn is Luther's versification of the Lord's Prayer, *Our Father, God in Heaven Above*. The organ prelude features this hymn in a set of variations by Felix Mendelssohn. The offertory music also features this hymn in a setting by J. S. Bach. The Hope Bells will ring *Song of Joy* by Anna Laura Page. Sunday, October 16, the organ prelude is two settings of *Children of the Heavenly Father* by Kenneth T. Kosche and Franklin D. Ashdown. The offertory music is *Kyrie! Father in Eternity* by J. S. Bach. The Hope Chorale will sing *I Will Lift Mine Eyes* by Howard Helvey. Sunday, October 23, we will be singing *O Lord, We Praise You* which features a text written by Martin Luther. The organ prelude is *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* (another text by Martin Luther) in a musical setting by Max Drischner. The Hope Chorale will sing *Psalm 84* by Hal H. Hopson. Sunday, October 30, Reformation Sunday, our featured hymn is *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* with text and music by Martin Luther. The organ prelude is *Prelude and Fugue in d minor* by J. S. Bach. This exciting composition by Bach is often associated with Halloween and spooky events (thank you TV cartoons) but actually has no connection with these events at all. The music is a fantastic fantasy in the form of an organ prelude and fugue. Try NOT to think of the Addams Family as you listen. The offertory music is *He Who Lets Only Beloved God Rule* by J. S. Bach. The Hope Chorale sings *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* by Dale Wood.

A month full of exciting and profound music.
Happy listening!!

George



EXHIBITION
Martin Luther:
Art and the Reformation
Minneapolis Institute
of Arts (MIA)
October 30, 2016—
January 15, 2017

Join a docent-led group of Wildfire members for a guided one-hour tour of artwork and historical objects that tell the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation. These items are traveling outside Germany for the first time ever and will be on exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (2400 Third Avenue South from October 30, 2016 through January 15, 2017.

Sign up by Thursday, October 20 for one of the following tour reservations:

- Fri., Nov. 18 (6:30pm): 1 group of 15
- Sat., Nov. 19 (3pm): 1 group of 15
- Tues., Nov. 29 (12:30pm): 2 groups of 15

Each tour group (for which we will pay a flat fee) must have a minimum of 10 and maximum of 15 adults. Cost per ticket (\$10-\$15) will depend on how many people are in each group. If a tour does not reach a minimum of 10 participants, it will be cancelled. Once a tour meets the maximum of 15 participants it will be closed to new sign-ups.

To register, contact Heather in the office at Faith-Lilac Way (office@faithlilacway.org or 763-537-4523)

While entrance to the museum is free, *Art and the Reformation* is a ticketed event. To make a reservation for a self-guided tour, purchase tickets through MIA (612-870-3000 or artsmia.org). The exhibit is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial; ask for a discount if you are a Thrivent member.



On November 13th, we will be celebrating Consecration Sunday by making our financial commitment to House of Hope for 2017. As we ponder God's will for our giving for next year, I have been thinking about a couple of things: 1) Everything belongs to God; and 2) Jesus' warning that you cannot serve God and money. (More about Jesus' warning in the November Stewardship Corner.)

The earth and everything on it belong to the Lord. Psalm 24:1a

We often talk about the things in our possession as *gifts* from God. But is that right? Normally, when a gift is given, ownership transfers from the giver to the recipient. That is not the case between God and us. God still owns what is provided to us and we are given the privilege and responsibility to care for it properly. We are truly *stewards*, that is, someone who watches over that which belongs to someone else.

Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth."

Deuteronomy 8:17-18a

We too often congratulate ourselves for having a nice house, nice cars, and the other things we accumulate. We really should be praising and thanking God that we have been given the ability to make a good living. Instead of trying to get more stuff, we should be asking serious questions about how we can best use everything that God has entrusted to our care.

As we thoughtfully and prayerfully consider our pledge for 2017, let us celebrate the fact that God has chosen us to be his stewards. It is an honor and a responsibility.

Sunday School—All in God's Family

This year in Sunday School we are learning about stories of families throughout the Bible. In September, we learned about Abraham and Sarah and in October we'll be learning about the twins, Jacob and Esau, and about Joseph and his brothers. All these stories come from Genesis, the first book of the Bible. They help us to learn about how we are all an important part of God's family!

October Forums . . .

Oct. 2—Small Catechism Review. As a way to prepare for celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation we will occasionally review some of the core documents. We will begin where many of us began—with the Small Catechism.

Oct. 9—Journey Towards Justice Report. On October 7-8, 55 congregations will be sending teams to explore racial justice issues, to better understand and confess the white privilege that is at work in the Lutheran church, and to identify action steps to take as a team, a congregation, and a denomination. The House of Hope team will be reporting back to the congregation and sharing what they learn and experience.

Oct. 16—Ministry Team Sharing. Starting this month Ministry Teams and others will be using a monthly forum to highlight their work on our behalf. This month the Care Ministry Team and Bonfire Ministry will be the first to present.

Oct. 23—ISAIAH Update with a representative from Shiloh Temple. As part of our work to live out our concern for the poor we will be going door to door to invite neighbors to learn about payday lending and Car-Hop abuses that target the poor. We will be inviting people to share their stories; our role will be to listen. The Wildfire churches will be working together along with others on this on Saturday, Oct. 29. We will meet at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, 5929 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center at 10am. Sign up in the narthex. Contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions.

Oct. 30—Confirmation Celebration: Ceci Wold/Germany Trip Meeting. We begin the day by celebrating Ceci Wold as she affirms her baptism. Then we will review plans for our trip to Germany in 2017.



MEA Getaway! Youth in grades 9-12, join us in heading up to Detroit Lakes for MEA October 20-23. We'll join hundreds of other youth from around the state to learn more about God, get to know new people, and have a blast! Let Pastor Gretchen know if you are interested! grode@hohlc.org

Apple Picking for Youth and Families! All youth and Sunday School families are invited to go apple picking on Sunday, October 16th. We'll head down to Minnetonka Orchards after Sunday School. Bring a lunch, or grab some food there. House of Hope will take care of the entrance fee! There are hiking trails, hay rides, a petting zoo, and, of course, lots of apples! Come spend the day enjoying the season. Let Christine Beck or Pastor Gretchen know if you are interested!

ValleyScare: October 28th! All youth are invited to join us as we head to Valley-Scare on Friday, October 28th. Bring your friends for this night of scary fun! Let Pastor Gretchen know if you want to come!

Come Talk About Emotional Health and Mood Disorders! All people have moods. All people feel, at times, energized or sluggish, happy or sad. Moods are these feelings but also the thoughts and attitudes about these feelings. Sometimes moods linger far beyond what seem normal lengths of time and interfere with one's ability to function in everyday activity. When this happens a mood disorder might be the cause.

House of Hope is offering a three-part information course on mood disorders. The course will be on three consecutive Tuesday evenings, Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1 from 7:00 to 8:30pm.. The course is free and open to the public. If you are dealing with a mood disorder either as a patient, friend or loved one, please join us.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE . . .

At the congregational meeting on September 25 members of House of Hope passed a motion to approve a capital campaign to begin January 2017 with a goal of \$350,000 to be raised over the next 3 years. Below is a list of the items that were approved in order of their priority:

1. Benevolence—\$10,000
2. Roof Repairs—\$45,000
3. Two Ground Level Air Conditioners & Furnace—\$35,000
4. Sanctuary Chairs—\$43,500
5. Electronic Sign—\$35,000
6. Resurface Parking Lots—\$115,000
7. Bathroom Remodel—(TBD)

The motion granted the Leadership Team the ability to adjust priorities as needs dictate.



A BONFIRE MINISTRY WORKSHOP

FALL PREVENTION

Saturday, Oct. 15
St. James Lutheran Church,
Crystal

8:30am—Registration
9am-12noon—Program

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

Pre-Register

Phone: 763-533-8333 Leave name and phone number for Mary Ann or

email name and phone number to Kathy at grammieandduck@gmail.com

Speakers will be:

A physical therapist from North Memorial
a Dietitian from HyVee
a Certified Pedorthist

The Bonfire Ministry is a collaboration of First Lutheran Church of Crystal, House of Hope Lutheran Church and St. James Lutheran Church. The goal of the Bonfire Ministry is to facilitate collaboration, to share resources and to create unity and common good in our communities.

www.bonfireministry.org



CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

BIRTHDAYS

- 10/3 - Darrel Drenth
Mike Johansen
Mae Lou Thompson
- 10/5 - Gary Minks
- 10/6 - Allison Remple
- 10/8 - Kim Larson
Michelle Reger
- 10/9 - Jody Bonsen
- 10/10 - Colin Anderson
Sara Utt
- 10/11 - Leonard Linnell
- 10/14 - Darrel Hamann
- 10/15 - Dennis Martenson
- 10/18 - Daniel Johnson
Taylor Loehrs
- 10/20 - Jenna Henderson
Mark Pilon
- 10/22 - Anne Jacobson
- 10/24 - Betty Johnson
- 10/25 - Lynn Hennen
- 10/28 - Ezzie Wild
Tim Wold
- 10/29 - Mark Jensen
Randy Wangen
- 10/31 - Floyd Olson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/14 - Ryan & Christina Montgomery
- 10/29 - Gary & Chris Bearl

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

The deadline for the November issue of the *Letter of Hope* is October 20th.

Our Church Family . . .

Baptisms—Fiona Grace, daughter of Brian & Naomi Witzke on Sunday, September 25.

Funerals—Tom Wiese, August 31

SENIOR MINISTRY

EVENT . . . Wednesday, October 12; 11:30am at House of Hope. **DO NOT BRING FOOD!** The committee will be preparing lunch. A free will offering will be taken. Entertainment will be a movie. Plan on joining us!

Bonfire KidPack 2016-2017

First KidPack of the year Tuesday, Oct. 4 from 4-6pm at The Food Group, 8501 - 54th Ave N
Join with members of the other Bonfire congregations to pack nutritious snack bags for children at Meadow Lake and Forest Elementary Schools

CARE MINISTRY CORNER . . .

“HOW CAN I HELP?” There are so many ways to do God’s Work in this area and beyond. Here are just a few:

- * NEAR AND PRISM—these food shelves need canned and packaged foods. The need is ongoing!
- * FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD—Household Items—see a list on the Care Ministry bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.
- * Sample sizes of shampoos, lotions, toothpaste that you get from hotels—containers available.
- * Watch for *Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes* coming soon! These boxes are sent to needy children around the world. It is a fun way for you and your child or grandchild to do a project together.

The collection cabinet is in Fellowship Hall on the north wall. It would be great to see the drawers FULL AND BRIMMING OVER!

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!
Care Ministry Team

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.

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Thank you for your donation of school supplies. The families of NEAR really appreciated your help getting their children ready for school. Your supplies helped us to serve 365 students from 123 families. Thank you! We are in need of plastic grocery bags.

The NEAR FoodShelf

Many thanks to the following people who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to the ministries of House of Hope last month: Anne Jacobson, Ronna Vinge

SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . . Team #3 will be responsible for November 2016. They will meet on Sunday, October 9, 2016, at 10:00am after the worship service. Please come and volunteer for as many tasks as you can. The members of Team #3 are:

Marty Anderson	Tom & Judy Behlke
Mark Berg	Dalyn Beske
BJ & Ella Mae Bjorkman	Joe & Karen Brehmer
Mert Cooper	Glen Davis
Marian Denno	Alisa DeSaer
Gary & Jan Elsesser	Jane Griffith
Darrel & Karen Hamann	Mike & Julie Johansen
Kathy Johnson	Ginny Kuns
Judie Lucchesi	Jim & Lynette Neus
Steve & Colleen Nightengale	Heidi Och
Robert & Sherry Olson	Scott & Michelle Reger
Gary & Patti Remple & Kaitlyn	Victoria Salvog
Alan & Denise Strandlund & Riley	
Gil & Mary Sundeen	Ben & Mae Lou Thompson
Randy Vescelius	Harley & Mona Rae Wanous
Ezzie & Jean Wild	Gary Wittmer & Michael & Matthew

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 #3 - October 9, 2016
Service Team #5 - November 13, 2016
Service Team #6 - December 11, 2016
Service Team #7 - January 8, 2017
Service Team #1 - February 12, 2017
Your Service Team Task Force



House of Hope Staff

Pastor Mark Vinge
mvinge@hohlc.org
Pastor Gretchen Rode
grode@hohlc.org
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)
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
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.