



# Letter of Hope

September 2016

House of Hope Lutheran Church  
*A Bonfire Congregation*  
Mark Vinge & Gretchen Rode, Pastors



**8th Annual Oktoberfest**  
**Saturday, September 17th**  
**3:00-8:00pm**

There'll be music by the Crows Feet, a silent auction, bounce house for the kids, and enough beer and brats to feed the neighborhood.

We will be auctioning off baskets again this year and are requesting donations from the congregation. You can pick up a basket in the narthex. Baskets should be returned the week prior to Oktoberfest. We will also be having a bake sale. We are requesting any baked goods—it doesn't need to be German themed. Baked goods should be brought up to church on Friday, September 16. Look for sign up sheets in the narthex and sign up if you are willing and able to work the event.

So put the date on your calendar, invite your friends and neighbors and come for the music, the food, and lots of fun!



There will be a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, September 25th in Fellowship Hall following worship. We will be discussing and approving priorities for a capital campaign to start this fall.

Please plan on joining us for this important event in the life of House of Hope as we plan for the future.



## Wildfire God's Work Our Hands

Join us on Saturday, September 10th at St. James from 9am-12pm for a variety of service projects requested by Lutheran Social Services to support Camp Noah, Refugee Services, Metro Homeless Youth Service, and Senior Nutrition. All ages welcome; potluck to follow!

## + **Pastor's Letter** +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

Perspective. That was one of the gifts of my sabbatical. I traveled; I visited other congregations; and I had a lot of uninterrupted time to ponder and reflect. In some ways I am still digesting all that I took in. But one of the most poignant impressions came as my time away was coming to a close. Ronna and I had been worshipping with a different congregation Sunday after Sunday and I was becoming less and less interested in visiting a new place. It felt disconnected and fleeting. I longed for community and that sense of belonging; the kind of connection I know we have here at House of Hope. Absence does make the heart grow fonder.

Every church we visited was a Lutheran congregation; even so, not a single one was the same. One of the most surprising experiences was the one in which worship did not include a reading from the Bible, nor any liturgy or prayer. Some were extremely creative while still being liturgical and others were very traditional while also being lively and engaging. Some were definitely friendlier than others, but I also had friends to visit with at several of them. While on one hand I was interested in learning what some innovative congregations were doing, I couldn't help but identify in which ones I would feel most at home.

The most challenging part of my sabbatical was exploring the faith and spirituality of the next generation including that of my own children. On one hand we might hope that our children would share our faith and beliefs exactly as we hold them, but in reality we know that that is neither likely nor possible. Every generation, every individual has to take what has been handed on to them and make it their own. But one of the things I realized is that such differences are present in every congregation. None of us will understand things in the very same way, so we live together in community not because we are the same but rather because we are not. It is the community that holds us together despite our differences.

The bottom line is that I am so grateful to House of Hope. Not only for the gift of a sabbatical but also for wonderful home that you are for Ronna and me. Every September I find myself relieved to be back in the rhythm of the school year. Vacations and mission trips are great but they are temporary and fleeting. What we all long for most of all is a place to be home; that is true in every way, spiritually and physically. It is good to be home.

Pastor Mark

**JOIN  
US . . .**

**Sunday,  
Sept. 18  
10:00am**

***(following worship)***

**Pastor Mark will be sharing  
reflections about his sabbatical  
this summer.**



**Come Join Our Sunday School Family!**

Are you a parent of a child or children ages 3 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade? Join us on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> after church for a Sunday School Open House! There will be ice cream sundaes, schedules for our program this year, and training for all interested Sunday school teachers or helpers! Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions or to volunteer!



Wow, it's September! Where's our summer going?! It's hard to realize that summer is escaping so quickly, but September is here. That means that Sunday School is starting back up, Bible studies are resuming and our musical groups are once again rehearsing so that they can offer their best for our Sunday worship. In worship we will switch to a different musical setting of the liturgy to help mark the change of seasons. So we're starting a "new year" in the life of House of Hope.

During September you will hear these selections during worship. On Sunday, September 11, the Hope Chorale will sing *Jubilate* by Johannes Matthias Michel; Sunday, September 18, you will hear *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands* by Jane Holstein sung by the Hope Chorale; September 25, the Hope Chorale sings *For the Least* by Wayne L. Wold; and October 2, you will hear *Free to Serve* by Elaine Aune sung by the Hope Chorale.

George

***Journeying toward Justice:  
Privilege and Race in Our Church  
October 7-8, 2016***

House of Hope will be sending a team of 5 to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis to join 55 other Twin Cities congregations in exploring topics of racial justice and how we, as people of faith, can come together in this important work! We'd love to have you join us in taking steps toward racial understanding and justice. To prepare for the conference, the 5 of us will be reading Jim Wallis' book *"America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America."* Please read along with us! And, please keep us in prayer as we continue to work towards racial justice and doing God's work in the world.

*Stewardship Corner*

Please take a moment to reread the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16. It is the story of the farmer who needed workers in his vineyard. He hired some workers at 6:00am, then more at 9:00am, noon, 3:00pm and 5:00pm. At the end of the day, he paid each worker, regardless of when the worker started, a full day's pay.

I don't know about you, but every time I read this parable, I immediately identify with the workers who worked all day and think, "That's just not fair." I like to think of myself as a responsible worker and I can't understand why the farmer would pay everyone the same, when the time put in by some of the workers was so much more than the others.

But this parable is not really about work, but about the Kingdom of God. God is giving gifts, not paying wages. The point of this parable is that entry into God's Kingdom is not gained by our work or action, but by the generosity of God. In other words, God saves by grace, not by our works or worthiness.

*Forgive us, Lord, for our jealous attitudes. Help us to be grateful for what we have and not to begrudge others any good fortune that comes their way. Help us to be generous in our treatment of others and never think of ourselves as more deserving. Amen.*

**Join a Bible Study**—We have several opportunities for you to join with others in a weekly Bible study this fall:

**Wednesdays**—Men's Bible Study; 6:30am; Country Kitchen in New Hope Bible Study; 10:30am at church for all interested adults

**Thursdays**—Women's Bible Study; 9:30am at church  
Libations with the Living Word; 8:00pm; at HyVee



**A BONFIRE MINISTRY WORKSHOP**

**FALL PREVENTION**

SATURDAY, October 15, 2016  
 St. James Lutheran Church  
 6700- 46th Place, Crystal

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

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](http://www.bonfireministry.org)

**UPCOMING SENIOR MINISTRY EVENTS**

- Sept. 14—Bus Trip to Shell Lake Woodcarving Museum & Pottery Shed Restaurant (reservations needed by Aug. 28)
- Oct. 12—Lunch at House of Hope; 11:30am. The committee is preparing lunch; free will offering. Entertainment will be a movie.
- Nov. 9—Potluck Lunch with free will offering at First Lutheran Church; 11:30am. Entertainment will be Greenwood Celtic Music
- Dec. 14—Potluck Lunch with free will offering at First Lutheran; 11:30am. Leo Alexander will be providing Christmas music.

**GERMANY TRIP UPDATE**

The proposed trip to Germany next year to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is still a work in progress. In part, it was meant to include participation by our youth, but no youth are signed up at this point so we'll need to clarify who is interested in going so that we can make appropriate arrangements for all. Watch for a meeting in September. We will contact all who have signed up so far to be sure they are well informed.

**MEN'S**



**DINNER**

**SUNDAY, Sept. 18 5:00pm**  
**First Lutheran Church of Crystal**  
 7708—62nd Ave N  
**\$10 per person**

Dinner includes lasagna, garlic bread, salad, dessert and beverage.

Guest Speaker is Michael O. Freeman, the elected Hennepin County Attorney. He has served for 16 years, from 1991-1999 and again from 2007 to the present. This office issues 7,000 adult felony and 10,000 juvenile criminal complaints each year and provides complete civil representation to Hennepin County with its 8,000 employees and almost \$1.8 billion budget.

Sign up at the display in the narthex at church.



**Mark your Calendars NOW!**  
**36th ANNUAL LUTEFISK & MEATBALL SUPPER**  
**4 November 2016**

Donations of **HOMEMADE CRAFTS & ITEMS** needed for **CRAFT SALE**  
 (Start working on them NOW!)

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

- \***TICKET SALES** - Sunday, October 2nd - 8:00am
- \***ROSETTE DAY** - Monday, October 24th - 9:00am
- \***FATTIGMANN DAY** - Monday, October 31 - 9:00am

*More information to come in future Sunday bulletins and newsletters*



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Youth Group** after church starts September 18<sup>th</sup>. Join Pastor Gretchen in the Youth Room for fun, fellowship, and faith talk (and probably some food); 10am-noon. All youth grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> are invited. Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions.

**Mark your calendars!**

- September 10<sup>th</sup>—9am-noon at St. James Lutheran Church in Crystal- **God's Work Our Hands**
- September 11<sup>th</sup>—after church at House of Hope—**Rally Day**, Sunday School Open House, Sunday School Helper Training to follow
- September 17<sup>th</sup>—**Oktoberfest!**
- September 25<sup>th</sup>—Meet at House of Hope after church—**Apple Orchard Trip**, details to follow

**KNITTERS & CROCHETERS**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for anyone willing to make prayer shawls for people going through illness, surgery, or other difficult times. A prayer shawl gives comfort to the recipient as they recover from their illness. We also are in need of small Prayer Squares—about 3 inches square—which can be carried in a pocket, purse, or tucked in a book. There are easy instructions and yarn available. Please see anyone from the CARE MINISTRY TEAM if you would like to help. **THANK YOU!**

Eunice Gran  
 Carolyn Larson  
 Mae Lou Thompson



**DINE \* TO \* DONATE**  
**Thursday, September 8th**

It's **PRISM Day** at  
**Granite City Food & Brewery**  
 5500 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park  
 Present a flyer (available at the Welcome Desk at church) and 10% of your **TOTAL** tab will be donated to **PRISM**.





**CELEBRATING  
THIS  
MONTH**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 9/1 - Jim Bursell  
Tim Mueller
- 9/2 - Holly Behlke
- 9/4 - Naya Gonzalez
- 9/7 - Abby Hansen
- 9/9 - Anderson Bakken  
BJ Bjorkman  
Sharon Johnson  
Kaitlyn Remple
- 9/13 - Shirley Fulmer  
Noah Montgomery
- 9/16 - Ashton Persaud  
Gil Sundeen
- 9/19 - Gale Friedrich
- 9/20 - Ashley Bonsen  
Mert Cooper  
Paul Hansen
- 9/22 - Harold Truax
- 9/24 - Shawn Follmer  
Jean Wild
- 9/25 - Sharon Burshiem
- 9/26 - Carol Lavalier  
Judie Lucchesi
- 9/28 - Swaro Persaud
- 9/29 - Stephanie Mueller

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9/1 - Ezzie & Jean Wild
- 9/3 - Kevin & Lisa Anderson  
Richard & Shirley Fulmer
- 9/5 - Bob & Jody Bonsen
- 9/10 - Gil & Mary Sundeen
- 9/11 - Paul & Annette Hansen
- 9/15 - Ken & Marty Gorsky  
Dennis & Catherine Martenson
- 9/16 - Jim & Lynn Bursell
- 9/20 - Joe & Karen Brehmer
- 9/21 - Shawn & Michelle Follmer
- 9/23 - Steve & Colleen Nightengale
- 9/25 - Scott & Michelle Reger
- 9/28 - Arlen & Sharon Johnson

***Our Church Family . . .***

**Births—**

- Fiona Grace, born to Brian & Naomi Witzke on August 1st.
- Cora Brooke, born to Todd & Joyce Stupnik on August 9th. Grandparents are George & Linda Brooke.



to the following people who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to the ministries of House of Hope last month—Jim Bursell, Michael Drenth, Dave & Ione Stedje, Stan & Connie Stensaas

**NOTE FROM THE OFFICE . . .** Please call Barb in the church office if you are planning to use any space/room in the building to find out if the space is available on the date you need it. There are a lot of groups, both church groups and community groups, that utilize our building during the week and on weekends throughout the year. Please do not assume that a space will be available any time you want to use it. We try to accommodate everyone but in order to make sure that events are not scheduled in the same space at the same time you need to call the office and reserve the space you would like to use if it is available. The main church calendar is kept in the office and **requests for building use should go through the office.** Thanks for your cooperation!

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

**SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . .** Team #1 will be responsible for October 2016. They will meet at church in the narthex on Sunday, September 11, 2016, at 10:00am, right after the worship service, to volunteer for the month's tasks. Support your teammates by attending the meeting and signing up for as many tasks as you can. The members of Team #1 are:

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kevin & Lisa Anderson  | Ron & Glorian Anderson      |
| Gary & Chris Bearl     | Chris Brewster              |
| Chuck & Dianne Carlson | Dorothy Carpenter           |
| Barb Drenth & Darrel   | Ralph & Roberta Etherington |
| Gary Freese            | Ken & Marty Gorsky          |
| Stanley & Ruth Haapala | Thomas & Shirley Hahn       |
| Marlin & Holly Haney   | Paul & Annette Hansen       |
| Carol Hedican          | Ray Henderson               |
| Barbara Ibister        | Darla Mann & Riley          |
| Gary Minks             | Ryan & Christina Montgomery |
| Rod & Molly Olson      | Perry & Kathy Peterson      |
| Kariann Sanny          | Dave & Ione Stedje          |
| Keith Struck           | Kevin & Kristina Wagenmaker |
| Britta Walstrom        | Nancy Wesley                |
| Brian & Naomi Witzke   | Dean & Carolyn Wuollet      |



**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 #1 - September 11, 2016  
 Service Team #3 - October 9, 2016  
 Service Team #5 - November 13, 2016  
 Service Team #6 - December 11, 2016  
 Service Team #7 - January 8, 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 October issue of the *Letter of Hope* is September 20th.**

**House of Hope Staff**

Pastor Mark Vinge  
[mvinge@hohlc.org](mailto:mvinge@hohlc.org)  
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 Barb Suckerman  
[office@hohlc.org](mailto: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)  
 10:00am—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](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.