



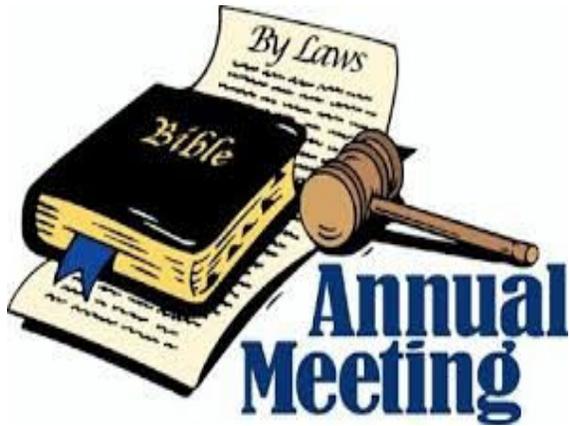
Letter of Hope

January 2018

House of Hope Lutheran Church

New Hope, MN

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



Following church
Sunday, January 28, 2018
10:30 a.m.

EVERY MEMBER VISIT

Beginning in January we hope to have a face to face visit with every member of House of Hope. The pastoral staff, along with other leaders, will be contacting you to set up a visit at your home, at church or at a local establishment that is convenient to work or home for you.



Annual KidPack Soup & Chili Fundraiser

Friday, January 26, 2018
4:00-7:00pm

At St. James Lutheran Church of Crystal
6700 46th Place North
Crystal, MN.

\$8 for Adults, \$5 for Children 12 and under. "To Go" orders for \$8/pint, and \$15/Quart Support KidPack and enjoy homemade Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Tomato Basil Soup, or the very popular "KidPack Chili"! Tickets can be purchased in advance at any of the Wildfire churches or at the door. To donate items for a silent auction or to place "To Go" orders, contact Terry at 612-275-2067.

+ **Pastor's Letter** +

Happy New Year to all our friends of House of Hope!

As we greet the New Year of 2018, we move from Christmas into the season of Epiphany. This is a season we begin by celebrating the visit of the magi (wise men) to the baby Jesus in the manger. It is a season where we are invited to see how God and God's glory are seen and made known to the world in Jesus' life. This is a season in the coldest time of the year, when we notice light—in the sun and in the stars—and we celebrate the joy of God among us.

Matthew 2:10-12

When the magi saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Just as the wise men followed the star to find Jesus, I wonder, in this cold time of New Year celebrations, what are the stars in your life that are pointing you to God? What joy is bubbling up around you? What reminds you of God's presence in your life? What brings you hope in this New Year?

And, just as the wise men learned as they left Jesus that they would have to go home another way, on another road, I wonder, how does this noticing of God's presence encourage you to move in a new way this year? How does seeing the joy, the light, the hope in your life point you in a new direction? What new practices or new tasks or new ways will you take up this year? How does God's presence here among us change your life?

May we explore this new path together, filled with joy by the blaze of light that is God's love for us here in the world.

Blessings on your 2018,
Pastor Gretchen



ISAIAH UPDATE

House of Hope is hosting Faith Delegate Training on Tuesday, January 16th from 6-8pm in Fellowship Hall. As discussed at the December forum, ISIAAH is building a block of voting delegates for the Minnesota state conventions for all political parties. Working together as a block at the conventions will give faith communities a significant voice in the 2018 election cycle. If you are willing to consider being a faith delegate come to the training and find out how the process works and how to maximize our success working together. That same week in January there is a statewide ISIAAH bus tour that will conclude with an event at the state capitol on Thursday, January 18. Talk to Pastor Mark for more information. Sign up in the narthex.

ADULT FORUMS FOR JANUARY

- January 7—
Resolutions and New Beginnings
- January 14—
Martin Luther King, Jr.
- January 21—
Budget Forum
- January 28—
ANNUAL MEETING



Here we are starting new calendar year. But we already have new life in Christ — a baby born to give us new life . Now we celebrate the season of Epiphany which is symbolized by light and the return of light. As our planet slowly tilts back towards the sun we begin to see longer days and more sunlight just as Christ's birth brings light to us and all mankind. Let us rejoice in the light!

During this season of light (Epiphany) our music groups offer these songs to help us celebrate. On Sunday, January 7, the Hope Choral will sing *Shine on Me* by Rollo Dilworth; Sunday, January 14, Hope Chorale sings *Search Me, O God* (Psalm 139) by Lloyd Larson; on January 21, the Hope Bells will ring *Peal Con Brio* by Karen Thompson; Sunday, January 28, the Hope Chorale will sing *In You, O Lord, I Will Place My Trust* by Allen Pote.

Enjoy the New Year and celebrate light!

George



LOOKING FOR ... a Men's Fellowship Dinner representative who will communicate to OUR congregation the date, the dinner speaker information and the location of each dinner (2-3 times a year). Al Anderson (First Lutheran Church) passes on the information to each representative. Thank you.



This month's Stewardship Corner will be an update on, and more information about, our Consecration Sunday stewardship program.

First of all, we pledged a total of \$312,224 for 2018, which is a 1.5% decrease from our pledges for 2017.

There are approximately 140 giving units (couples or single persons) at House of Hope. A total of 82 giving units completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* this year.

A total of 30 giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount. There were 11 giving units that pledged in 2018 that had not pledged in 2017. There were 16 giving units that pledged in 2017 that did not pledge in 2018, but that included 2 families that left House of Hope during 2017 and one member that passed away.

It is not too late to fill out an *Estimate of Giving Card* for 2018. *Estimate of Giving Cards* are still available in the church office.

Thank you again to everyone for participating in our 2017 Consecration Sunday stewardship program. The 2017 Consecration Sunday program was a big success, especially if you consider that we held a Capital Campaign earlier in the year. This success will help House of Hope continue its many ministries and perhaps enable us to pursue new ministries as well.

2018 FLOWER CHART . . . The flower chart for 2018 is on the 3-sided kiosk on the north end of the narthex. You can sign up to give altar flowers in honor or memory of family, friends, special occasions, etc. Bouquets are \$15.



Youth and Family Trip

Snow Tubing on January 21st after Sunday School!
 We'll grab some lunch and head over to Elm Creek Park Reserve.
 Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MEGAPACK

Sunday February 25th from 1-3pm.
 Youth and Families are invited to join us for a day of meal packing.
SAVE THE DATE!



ULTIMATE LOCK-IN

The Maple Grove Area Annual Ultimate Lock-In will be held Friday, January 19 from 10pm until 5:30am at the Maple Grove Community Center and Lifetime Fitness. Over 500 middle school youth will spend the night swimming, skating, playing on inflatables, playing basketball, dodgeball, and new this year—escape rooms. Pass the word; bring a friend. Cost is \$30 plus an item for the food shelf. All Wildfire churches are included and are coordinated by House of Hope. See Pastor Mark or Pastor Gretchen for details.



Women of all ages!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 3rd.

We'll be having a Women's Mini-Retreat. We'll gather from 9am-3pm to talk, pray, read, and craft around the topic of HOPE!

I hope you can join us!
 Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions

Pepparkakor Recipe

Chris Brewster is sharing her popular cookie recipe, Pepparkakor, that she has brought to the Lutefisk Supper. Chris says, "My mother was a fabulous baker—she pretty much lived in the kitchen especially during the holidays. She made several batches of at least a dozen kinds of cookies! She did the mixing and we sometimes helped with slicing the pepparkakor and baking it. Mostly I remember eating the fruits of her labor! And yes . . . our joy was her joy! We were blessed!"

- Cream: 1/2 lb. butter
 1-1/2 cup sugar
- Add: 1 beaten egg
 2 Tbsp dark Karo corn syrup
 1 tsp finely grated orange peel

- In a separate bowl mix:
 3 cup flour, sifted
 1 tsp. baking soda
 1 tsp. cinnamon
 1 tsp cloves
 1 tsp ginger
 1 tsp ground cardamom

Add to other ingredients. Divide in half. Shape into long logs on waxed paper. Keep wrapped and place on flat lid of cake pan in refrigerator overnight. Cut into 1/8" slices. Bake at 350 degrees for 11-1/2 to 12 minutes.

We would love to share your favorite recipe and some family history about it. See Roberta Etherington with questions.



CHECK OUT......the church library for a variety of “good reads” perfect for a cold winter evening!

In a new series, published by guideposts, the *Tea Room Mysteries*, cousins Elaine and Jan purchase a rambling house on Chickadie Lake in Maine and turn it into a charming tea room. “The kettle is on, the scones are warm” let the mysteries/intrigue begin. There are 9 books (so far) in this series and all are a quick read. Series books are on the north wall book shelves.

Several new biographies, in the same area, are former U of M football coach, Jerry Kills, *CHASING DREAMS: One Yard at a Time*. After ongoing battles with cancer and epilepsy Kill stepped down from coaching in 2015. His story is not one of tragedy, but of triumph of how one can make a difference in the lives of others...and the biography of Ben Utrecht, tight end for the U of M, Cincinnati Bengals and the Indianapolis Colts. In *Counting My Days While My Mind Slips Away: A Love Letter to My Family* Ben chronologically shares his remarkable journey and speaks about the long term effects of his 5 major concussions.

Come in and enjoy the library’s comfy seating to read a book, check out the coffee table magazines—or just to rest! When the church is open, the library is open—WELCOME.

CARE MINISTRY NEWS . . .

We will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves through the month of January. Please bring your donations to the Care Ministry Corner in Fellowship Hall.

Food Shelf News . . . The holiday food and gift collections are over but the need for non-perishable food items for the NEAR & PRISM food shelves is never-ending. Please continue to help us feed the hungry in our midst. Donations can be brought to the Care Ministry Corner in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Bonfire Grief Support . . . A new session of the Bonfire Grief Support will begin meeting in January. The group meets at St. James Lutheran Church in Crystal each Sunday at 3:45pm beginning on January 7th and finishing up on March 18th. Each session is self-contained so you can attend as many or as few as you wish. Dates and topics are listed below—

- Jan. 7—Is This Normal?
- Jan. 14—Challenges of Grief
- Jan. 21—The Journey of Grief (Pt. 1 & 2)
- Jan. 28—Grief and Your Relationships
- Feb. 4—Why?
- Feb. 11—Guilt and Anger
- Feb. 18—Complicating Factors
- Feb. 25—Stuck
- Mar. 4—Lessons of Grief (Pt. 1 & 2)
- Mar. 11—Heaven
- Mar. 18—What Do I Live For Now?

Talk to Debbie Haney, Bonfire Parish Nurse if you have questions or are interested in attending the support group.

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”

Matthew 25:35





**CELEBRATING
THIS MONTH**

BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 - Robert Olson
- 1/3 - AllieRose Walker
- 1/4 - Allison Gove
Ginny Kuns
- 1/5 - Ken Erickson
- 1/7 - Sydney Hetrick
- 1/18 - Gary Bearl
Eric Hanson
- 1/19 - Linda Moen
- 1/20 - Ron Anderson
- 1/23 - Lucas Burshiem
Richard Fulmer
- 1/24 - Rachel Gove
- 1/25 - Len Carlson
Arne Larson
Stan Stensaas
- 1/28 - Annika Walstrom
- 1/29 - Debbie Haney
- 1/30 - Marian Denno
- 1/31 - Carter Jensen
Daniel Persaud

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/8 - Andy & Wendy Fretag
- 1/28 - Stan & Ruth Haapala
- 1/31 - Dave & Ione Stedje

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

Our Church Family . . .

Deaths . . .

Leonard Linnell, December 18, 2017
Sharee Johnson, December 20, 2017.



Sincere thanks for your recent gift of \$150.00 to the Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door program.
Dinner At Your Door Board.

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$650.00 to PRISM.
Each year PRISM:

- Provides 640,000 pounds of nutritious food to 5,500 individuals.
- Helps 115 families maintain or obtain, stable housing.
- Gives 200 families gift certificates for clothing.
- Provides more than 1,000 children with Holiday toys, birthday gifts, back-to-school supplies, new baby essentials, and supplemental summer food.

We are proud to share our accomplishments with donors like you who make our work possible.

Michelle Ness
Executive Director

PARISH NURSE HOURS

Thursdays—11 am-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 February issue of the *Letter of Hope* is
January 20th.**

SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . . Team #3 will be responsible for February 2018. They will meet on Sunday, January 14, 2018, 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
 Marian Denno
 Alisa DeSaer
 Jane Griffith
 Darrel & Karen Hamann
 Mike & Julie Johansen
 Kathy Johnson
 Ginny Kuns
 Judie Lucchesi
 Jim & Lynette Neus
 Steve & Colleen Nightengale
 Robert & Sherry Olson
 Scott & Michelle Reger
 Gary & Patti Remple
 Victoria Salvog
 Gil & Mary Sundeen & Blake
 Ben & Mae Lou Thompson
 Randy Vescelius
 Harley & Mona Rae Wanous
 Ezzie & Jean Wild
 Gary Wittmer & Charles, 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 - January 14, 2018
 Service Team #5 - February 11, 2018
 Service Team #6 - March 11, 2018
 Service Team #7 - April 8, 2018
 Service Team #1 - May 13, 2018

Your Service Team Task Force



House of Hope Staff

Pastor Mark Vinge
mvinge@hohlc.org
 Pastor Gretchen Rode
grode@hohlc.org
 Deacon George Brooke
gbrooke@hohlc.org

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.*



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
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.