



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
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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.



Letter of Hope

February 2018

House of Hope Lutheran Church

New Hope, MN

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

It's Time to Sign Up for Camp Wapo!...

Kids finishing grades 2 and 3 can sign up for a weekend with SEEDS for August 3rd-5th.. Kids finishing grades 4 and up can sign up for the week of August 5th-10th. House of Hope pays for half of the fee!

Youth Gathering Meeting—February 18th after church, youth and adults signed up for the Youth Gathering in Houston meet in the youth room to start preparing for this summer adventure!

Music Director's Note

As February comes onto the scene we prepare to start the season of Lent. A season that brings thoughts of sacrifice and penitence. While Lent is a time for repentance it also can be a time of celebration. Not the Rah, Rah, Ye! type of celebration that we often associate with that word but a time of "Restrained Celebration." A time of celebration that is expressed in subdued and anticipatory ways geared toward preparing to celebrate with exuberant joy the paschal mystery at Easter. During Lent we put away the alleluias and celebrate our joy in a quieter manner so that we can celebrate with great joy and exuberance when we celebrate the resurrection on Easter.

During February our music groups offer these selections to help us in our restrained celebration: Sunday, February 4, the Hope Chorale will sing God Heals the Brokenhearted by Jonathan Strommen Campbell; Sunday, February 11 (Transfiguration Sunday), you will hear How Good, Lord to Be Here! by Hal H. Hopson sung by the Hope Chorale; Ash Wednesday, February 14, you hear the Hope Chorale sing Give Ear O Lord, and Visit Me by James A. Rogner; Sunday, February 18, the Hope Bells will ring Beautiful Savior by Derek Hakes; and Sunday, February 25, the Hope chorale sings Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus by Dan Forrest.



Marjorie Ann
DESIGNS

Kristi W. Designs

George

+ *Pastor's Letter* +

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

This year we have a curious coincidence. The season of Lent which always begins on a solemn note with Ash Wednesday, happens to fall on Valentine's Day, February 14. Additionally, Easter Sunday is April 1, also known as April Fool's Day. While these annual observances might at first glance seem to be a cross purposes (no pun intended), the themes of love and even foolishness are also part of the Christian story and found throughout the Bible. In fact, we will have a little fun with these contrasting themes to lift up the gospel for this coming Lent and Easter.

Our theme for Lent this year is "**Lift Every Voice.**" We will be listening to five women whose voices in the Biblical story have been overlooked or overwhelmed by all the other voices that get much more airplay. Not surprisingly, for centuries, the stories of most women in the Bible have historically taken a back seat to those of the men. In fact, the original authors of the Bible often did not include the specific names of women. But some names we do know; some better than others. Eve, Sarah, Ruth, Naomi, Mary, Elizabeth are some of the more well-known female characters in the Bible. But there are others.

Just as our society is challenged by the #MeToo movement and the silencing of voices, let us consider the lesser-known female voices in the Bible who have much to offer. We hope that in amplifying these women's stories, we can expand our own understanding of discipleship. After all, we know that every person, every gender, bears the very image of God. Please join us for our mid-week Lenten services, 7:00 p.m. We will use the "Prayer Around the Cross" liturgy which employs meditation, chanting, and candlelight.

February 21: Hannah (prayer)
February 28: Miriam (worship)
March 7: Samaritan woman (invitation)
March 14: Deborah (encouragement)
March 21: Dorcus (serving all people)

Pastor Mark



EVERY MEMBER VISIT

In January we began a program to have face to face visits with every member of House of Hope. The pastoral staff, along with other leaders, are still eager to set up a visit at your home, or at church. You may sign up at church, or call Pastor Mark. Otherwise we will call to schedule a visit. It will only be one or two people who will come for the visit. We want to hear your hopes and dreams for House of Hope.

ADULT FORUMS FOR FEBRUARY

February 4—
 Fellowship: FMSC Richard Fulmer
 February 11—
 Sunday School Valentine's Party
 February 18—
 Forum / Fellowship
 February 25—
 Forum / Fellowship



SERVICE TEAM NEWS . . .

Team #5 will be responsible for March 2018. They will meet on Sunday, February 11, 2018, 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 Bensen
 Len & Pat Carlson
 Tim & Shannon Dahl & Delaney & Reggie
 Ken & Lois Erickson
 Shawn & Michelle Follmer & Adam
 Andy & Wendy Freitag & Zachary & Emma
 Nate & Lori Gove & Nick, Rachel & Allison
 Tom & Debbie Haney
 John & Theresa Henderson & Jenna
 Marlene Holmquist
 Eleanor Hunsberger
 Lisa Loehrs & Taylor & Neriah
 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

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

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.



CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

BIRTHDAYS

- 2/2 - Wendy Fretag
- 2/3 - Della Anderson
- 2/4 - Zane Anderson
- 2/7 - Lynne McGrath
- 2/8 - Kris Allen
- 2/9 - Kara Hansen
Debbie Trombley
- 2/10 - David Nelson
- 2/11 - Burton Gran
- 2/12 - Judy Behlke
- 2/13 - Jonathan Ellis
- 2/15 - Janna Ellis
- 2/16 - Charlie Bakken
John Bakken
- 2/17 - Ronna Vinge
- 2/19 - Dalyn Beske
Marlene Holmquist
- 2/20- Tayler Kukachka
- 2/21- Barbara Ibister
Abigail Sundeen
Charles Wittmer
- 2/24- Ben Thompson
- 2/25- Gary Wittmer
- 2/28- Harley Wanous
Carolyn Wuollet

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/10 - Shirley & Tom Hahn
- 2/15 - Ella Mae & BJ Bjorkman
- 2/16 - Marlene & Harold Truax

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

The deadline for the March issue of the *Letter of Hope* is February 20th.

Our Church Family . . .

Baptism: Herbert Jeremy Lemire on January 14, 2018.

Deaths . . .

Mike Drenth on January 1, 2018. A funeral was held at House of Hope on Saturday, January 6, 2018.

Brother of Eleanor Hunsberger, Duane Witherspoon, on January 13, 2018



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 - February 11, 2018
- Service Team #6 - March 11, 2018
- Service Team #7 - April 8, 2018
- Service Team #1 - May 13, 2018
- Service Team #3 - January 14, 2018
- Your Service Team Task Force



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

PARISH NURSE HOURS
 Thursdays—11 am-1 pm
 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.

Holden Village 2018

Pastor Mark and Ronna will be in Holden Village this summer, June 23-30. If you'd like to join them for all or part of that same week, sign up online at holdenvillage.org. Please talk with Pastor Mark for more information.



So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:2-3

The verses quoted above are a part of the Gospel for Ash Wednesday and are from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus tells those listening that they should help the needy quietly and unobtrusively, that is, don't turn your giving into a performance for others to watch.

It can be so easy to get trapped into wanting others to see our good deeds, so that they recognize and praise us for the good things that we do. When we seek attention for doing a good deed, we are doing good in order to please ourselves. In verse 2, Jesus says that our reward for that good deed will be the praise and recognition of others.

When Jesus tells us to do our good deeds in secret, he is giving us a gift. He is freeing us to act simply because someone else needs our help. Jesus also states, in verse 3, that giving done in secret will be rewarded by the Father.

Jesus also said, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16. Now what do we do? Christians need to model good stewardship and talk appropriately about it. But the point is not to put on a show to gain glory for oneself but to humbly set an example for others on how to steward God's good gifts.

**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!

Thank You Note to Church

Members...Arne Larsen and his family want to thank everyone for all your prayers, cards and concerns over the last several months. Arne saw the specialist this last week and does not need a follow up visit until November. Hurrah!

N.E.A.R. News...they would like to thank all those who have donated food and gifts as well as donating their time during the Christmas season. Remember that N.E.A.R continues to need both plastic and paper bags. This is an ongoing need. If you have and Easter baskets you no longer have a need for, N.E.A.R. can use them. Please put any donations in the Fellowship Hall. Any questions contact Carolyn Larson at 612-998-9887



Lent 2018
“Lift Every Voice”

Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday	Worship at Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 21	Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Worship	7:00 p.m. Hannah
Feb. 28	Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Worship	7:00 p.m. Miriam
Mar. 7	Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Worship	7:00 p.m. Samaritan Woman
Mar. 14	Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Worship	7:00 p.m. Deborah
Mar. 21	Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Worship	7:00 p.m. Dorcas

Holy Week

Passion Sunday	Mar. 25 9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday	Mar. 29 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday	Mar. 28 Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil, Saturday	Mar. 30, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday	April 1, 9:00 a.m.

Senior Fellowship Event...at 1st

Lutheran on Wed. February 7th at 11:30 a.m. Mary Hall, a singer guitarist will entertain us. Free lunch will be furnished. Call Ruth at 763-533-9063 for RSVPs.

Men’s Fellowship Dinner...February 11, 2018. Located at St. James Lutheran Church. 5 p.m. start time. \$10.00 per person. Sign up in Narthex by February 4, 2018.



“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 chronically shares his remarkable journey and now speaks about the long term effects of his 5 major concussions.

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

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—

- 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.

