



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

April 2018

House of Hope Lutheran Church

New Hope, MN

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

Music Director's Notes

It's April, a glorious time of spring and rebirth. We start April with that most glorious celebration of rebirth — the Resurrection of Our Lord! We start the celebration with our Vigil of Easter on Saturday, March 31. During this service we will prepare for Easter and all of its joy with a series of readings from the Old Testament that tell the stories of our faith. We'll respond to these stories with a variety of songs as we all celebrate together and prepare to celebrate the Resurrection the next day. We will join in singing Christ Be Our Light, Let My People Go, Boaz and Ruth, Surely God Is My Salvation, Cool Under Fire, and I Come with Joy.

For our celebration of the Resurrection on April 1, Hope Chorale will sing Glorious, Risen Christ! by Lloyd Larson and Hope Bells will ring Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! by Terry Osman. Sunday, April 8, Hope Chorale will sing I Know that My Redeemer Lives by Craig Courtney. On Sunday, April 15, you will hear the Hope Chorale sing Sing the Resurrection Song by Allen Pote, and Sunday, April 22, Hope Chorale sings I Know My Shepherd's Voice by Carl J. Nygaard, Jr. Sunday, April 29, you will hear the Hope Bells ring A Joyful Peal by Patricia Hurlbutt.

Come join us as we celebrate resurrection and new birth!

George

Senior Fellowship . . .

On Wednesday April 11, 2018 at 12:45 PM the "Grace Notes Trio" will entertain us at the House of Hope Lutheran Church. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up in narthex and contact Loretta Quick with any questions at 612-875-7523.

First Communion . . .

Abby Hansen, Emily Nightengale, and Sophie Wangen will be celebrating their first communion on Sunday, April 15th. Join us in worship and for a cake reception afterwards to celebrate this step in their ministry!

Food Drive for NEAR and Prism . . .

Continues through March and April. A full list of most needed food donations can be found in the Narthex.

+ Pastor's Letter +

Dear friends of House of Hope,

One of the very good things our synod, the Minneapolis Area Synod, does for rostered leaders, that is, pastors and deacons, is encourage them to be in peer groups together. They realize how important and healthy it is for them to be in relationship with other people. One of the dangers for clergy, for example, is when they don't participate in gathering with other pastors or refuse to be involved in the larger work of the synod is that they develop what is sometimes referred to as a "silo" mentality, as if their work and their congregation are independent and separate from all the others. It happens more frequently than you would hope.

As it turns out, I participate in at least four different groups, that could be considered peer groups, that meet monthly, if not more frequently. I find it so very helpful not only for the work that I do, but also for my own personal well-being to have these friendships and colleagues with whom I can share ideas and stories, and receive the same from them. One of those groups was formed specifically to be a peer group; we call ourselves "The Old Dogs" because we are all in our sixties. That group is currently doing some very interesting work, examining the idea of "elderhood" as it is expressed in different cultures.

Of course, we are doing this to explore what it could mean for us as we journey through the later stages of our work as pastors and approach our own elder years. One book we have been reading, *Aging to Saging*, makes the comparison between treating aging like a time for decline versus a time for new opportunity. It has offered several examples of people who have been renewed by discovering how much they have to offer and how much they still want to do. The book encourages us to make the most of our later years. I believe all of this has implications for our life together at House of Hope. First of all, you cannot underestimate the value of being in regular fellowship and relationship with our members of House of Hope. Therefore I encourage to be involved in the many and various ways we gather and connect with each other through Bible study groups, Serendipity groups, Service Teams, Care Ministry Team efforts like Dinner at Your Door, KidPack, Choirs, Youth Groups, SJMC, Funeral Committee, Quilting, Respite Care, Community Garden, etc. Those shared relationships offer more than simply the shared activity, but also the opportunity to share your very life with others. Always remember, it's never too late to start. And if you are already participating in a group, keep up the good work! It's more important than you may know!

Pastor Mark

A Bit of History—HELP . . .

The library is looking for House of hope cookbooks from "our past". We have two cookbooks at this time: The HOH 40th Anniversary cookbook and the blue Family Favorites. Thank you in advance for adding your cookbooks to this section of our library.

EVERY MEMBER VISIT

All Member Visits to begin again after Easter! We still want to meet with every member of House of Hope. Thank you to all of you who have signed up already. We will start calling and taking sign ups again after the busy Lenten season is done. We want to hear your hopes and dreams for House of Hope!

ADULT FORUM DATES

- April 1 - Easter Festival Worship
- April 8 - Campus Ministry U of M Student James Dahlvang is Preaching Forum / Fellowship Service Team Sign-Up
- April 15 - Worship with 1st Communion Forum / 1st Communion Celebration that Day
- April 22 - Forum / Fellowship
- April 29 - Forum / Fellowship

SERVICE TEAM #7-MAY 2018

Team #7 will be responsible for May 2018. It will meet on Sunday, April 8, 2018, 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 & Ryan
 Steve Burshiem & Lucas
 Arlene Chenvert
 Marilyn Eggert
 Nancy Elliott
 Mildred Freese
 Ryan & Kaela Halupnick
 Ross & Virginia Hansing
 Eric & Maria Hanson & Kaylee & Alyssa
 Kevin & Amber Hokr
 Tim & Nancy Horsch & Eric & Courtney
 Don & Jean Johansen
 Arlen & Sharon Johnson
 Orv & Betty Johnson
 Arne & Carolyn Larson
 Deb & Robert Mans
 Lee Olson
 Pam & Jeff Pofperl & Adam
 Joe & Sandee Rademacher
 Todd & Joyce Stupnik
 Clarice Sulzbach
 Harold & Marlene Truax
 Paul & Cheryl Wallenfelt
 Patty Wiese



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

- 4/2 Julie Johansen
- 4/3 James Neus
- 4/4 David Stedje
- 4/6 Royann Ziesel
- 4/11 Kenneth Agar
- 4/15 Annette Hansen
- 4/16 Idonis McMullin
- 4/16 Scott Reger
- 4/18 Delores Larsen
- 4/18 Graham Remple
- 4/19 Orville Johnson
- 4/20 Diane Ellis
- 4/21 Jacob Kukachka
- 4/21 Eli Rombalski
- 4/22 Robyn Quam
- 4/23 Brady Olson
- 4/24 Linda Brooke
- 4/24 Ross Hansing
- 4/28 Stanley Haapala
- 4/28 Christina Montgomery
- 4/28 Clarice Sulzbach
- 4/29 Carolyn Larson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/6 Kris & Ben Allen
- 4/27 Jan & Ron Swanson

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

The deadline for the May issue of the Letter of Hope is April 20th.



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 - April 8, 2018
- Service Team #1 - May 13, 2018
- Service Team #3 - June 10, 2018
- Service Team #5 - July 8, 2018
- Service Team #6 - August 12, 2018

Your Service Team Task Force



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

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

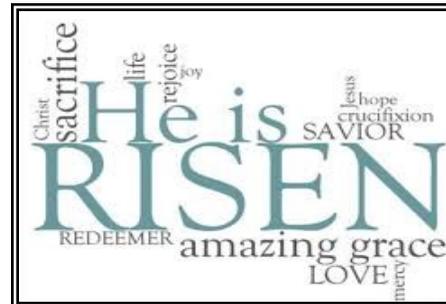
PARISH NURSE HOURS
 Thursdays—11am-1pm
 3rd Sunday—9:00am-12 noon
 Debbie's direct phone number is 612-408-2049
 or call her at the church 763-533-3341 and leave a voice mail.

Holden Village! . . .

Eighteen people are headed to Holden Village this summer around the week of June 23-30. If you are interested in joining them for all or part of the same week, talk to Pastor Mark or sign up online at www.holdenvillage.org.

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



We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another...Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John 3:16, 18

On April 22, the Second Reading will be 1 John 3:16-24. The writer of verse 24 starts right out by defining love, not in some abstract way, but by tying it to Jesus' death. To know love is to experience Christ's death by sacrificially loving others. When we know God's love, we express it through giving ourselves and our material possessions to those who need them. Love is not conveyed in words, but "in truth and action".

Jesus never said we were to like our neighbors; but Jesus did say that we were to act on behalf of our neighbor's good. Christian love is an active caring and concern for the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of our neighbors. Such love is unconditional, that is:

- It is given on the basis of need and not on the basis of deserving.
- It is giving freely without any expectation of gain.
- It is sacrificial, which may mean giving our life for another, but it may also mean the willingness to sacrifice our ideas for the sake of harmony in the church.
- It is the result of rational decision. True love is not sentimental concern, but is the result of hard moral thinking.

"For someone who lives in a humble and wise way will give more evidence of God's power than any number of wise words could ever do." Venerable Bede, an English monk who lived from 672-735.

Wildfire Vacation Bible School . . .

Shipwrecked! Children ages 3-5th grade- join us for Vacation Bible School at House of Hope Sunday July 22nd-Thursdays July 26th. We meet from 5:30-8pm, with optional dinner at 5pm, for Bible lessons, singing, games, and crafts! Invite friends! Talk to Pastor Gretchen with questions and to register

CARE Ministry Emphasis . .

Groceries and gifts of money will be collected until April 15 to help replenish the shelves of NEAR and PRISM, It is your generosity that keeps the food shelves stocked. Place your donations on the table in the narthex.

HOME FREE . .

A residence in Plymouth for battered women and children has ongoing needs. We ask your help especially during the weeks between April 15 and May 15.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Full-sized items including deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, and conditioner.

CLOTHING: New socks, underwear, nightgowns, slippers, T-shirts, tennis shoes and children's shoes.

THANK YOU for sharing so generously, as you have in the past.

CARE MINISTRY TEAM - Eunice Gran, Jane Griffith, Carolyn Larson, Mae Lou Thompson, Jean Wild.



Sunday, April 8th- Campus Ministry Student to Preach at House of Hope . . .

A note from our Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota: "Study after study reveals that less young people are attending church, and of those that do attend, they attend less regularly. What these studies fail to account for is the deep faithfulness of the students who are actively engaged with a faith community, the ways they are reaching out across borders and boundaries, the counter cultural nature of their practice, the ways they're integrating their experiences in labs and classrooms with their faith, and the ways they are, and will continue, to shape the church and world into the future.

Your Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota is privileged to walk alongside some of these young adults while they're in college, and we are looking forward to being present with you on April 8 for LCM Sunday!

Student, James Dahlvang, will be preaching on that day, proclaiming the Gospel, and sharing stories about his life in college. We'll also have Sheldon Way to share a bit about their ministry during adult forum. We will be taking a special offering in support of this vital young adult ministry!

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on April 8th!"



"Check Out"....

NEW: BUT THAT IS NOT ME
Former HOH member, Rich Hoeg, has contributed his bird photography to this beautiful picture book, for young children, written by Dr. Susan Larson Kidd. Harry Woodpecker shares his message " I should drum out my rhythm on the trunk of a tree and be ever so happy just to be me"! Each page encourages a choral response of early readers. This book will be available for check out. Also, we have copies that may be purchased. Thank you.

Mixed Couples' Golf League . . .

Spring will be here before you know it and we will start to think about outdoor activities. Give some thought to joining the House of Hope Mixed Couples' Golf League. This is a fun league and is open to any level of golfer. We will be playing at Eagle Lake Golf Course in Plymouth, beginning Wednesday May 16, 2018 with tee times starting at 5PM. We gather together after golf for a bite to eat and social time at a local establishment.

To sign up or if you have any questions: Contact Paul or Cheryl Wallenfelt at 763-593-9232 or email them at wallenfelt@comcast.net.



"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35

