

# LETTER OF HOPE

LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL

HOUSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW HOPE MN



Welcome to House of Hope

worship together in the sanctuary at 10am!  
masking to protect one another

**NOVEMBER 2021**

## ***Pastor's Letter: "Parting the Waters" Exodus 14 Commitment Sunday November 21***

When God parted the waters of the Red Sea in the Exodus account from Exodus chapter 14, God was "making a way out of no way" for the Israelites to escape danger and cross over into the Promised Land. As the chosen theme for this Fall's Stewardship Campaign, "**Parting the Waters**" conjures up images of not only the very real threat to the vulnerable Israelites but also the miraculous activity of a God who parted the waters, thus making a path forward into a new future for a new day!

House of Hope Lutheran Church has come through a threatening year of pandemic. And yet, God both protected and preserved the ministry and mission of this congregation throughout the struggle. On **Sunday, November 21**, HOH members will have the opportunity to bring their Estimate of Giving Cards forward to the altar as a demonstration of both gratitude and continued commitment to the ministry that God has preserved and perhaps even strengthened through this difficult time. The HOH Stewardship Team wishes to invite you to put this date on your calendars and plan to be with us for this Sunday of both celebration and commitment, where we will sing with the British Hymnwriter,

***O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing, that songs cannot repay  
for we can only wonder, at ev'ry gift you send  
at blessings without number and mercies without end  
we lift our hearts before you, and wait upon your word  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.***

-Hymn 880, Ev Lutheran Worship Hymnal

Now, your HOH Stewardship Team is counting on you to **keep the momentum going into 2022**, that is, to build even more on the spirit of perseverance that has carried this congregation already this far, by faith! House of Hope has been truly blessed by your continued faithfulness and generosity and we are genuinely convinced that increased giving and increased commitment are possible as we now emerge from the pandemic of 2020/21 and prepare for another of year of ministry in 2022.

(continued on page 2)

# LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL

## *"Parting the Waters" (cont.)*

(...continued from page one)

Take a moment to re-visit O God beyond all praising, #880 in your ELW. Perhaps memorize the tune and hum it as you go about your daily routine in this stewardship season. We invite you to prayerfully consider what God has already done for us and promises to continue to do, parting the waters, in new and various ways for renewed mission and ministry. As Lutherans, to be a grateful people is also to be a giving people. Worship, service, generosity and praise are the natural human responses to being grasped by God's goodness, preservation, and promise for a new day.

In the next few weeks, you will receive more information about this year's campaign. The word is out that Mark Jensen will be preparing a skit on our theme, there will be sermons, a temple talk, songs, and even a gathering with coffee, cocoa, and s'mores after church on Commitment Sunday. We say "thank you" ahead of time for your participation and attentiveness to our theme of "parting the waters." Watch for more information and for an Estimate of Giving Card to arrive in your mailbox. See you on **Sunday, November 21!**

Blessings for your Stewardship planning this Season!

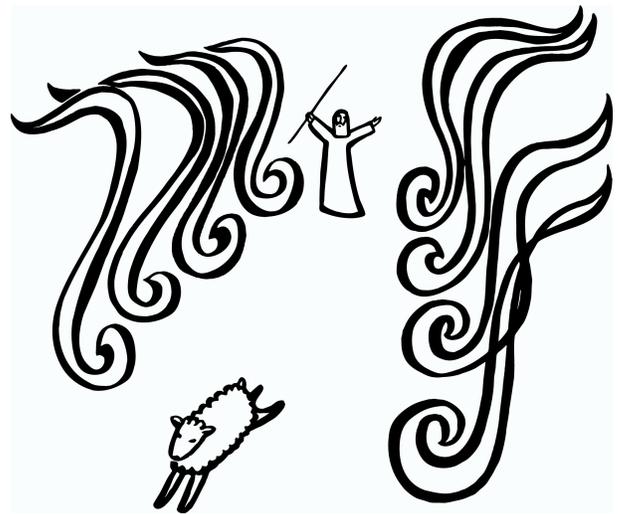
*Pastors Joy K Bussert, Gretchen Rode, Deacon George Brooke,  
and Your HOH Stewardship Team:*

*Chris Bearl*

*Jim Neus*

*Rose Wangen*

*Gil Sundeen*



## *Call Committee Updates*

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been submitted to the Minneapolis Area Synod. Pastor Gretchen has indicated that she would like to be considered for the call of Senior Pastor and the Call Committee has begun interviews. Feel free to reach out to any member of the Call Committee. All numbers below are cell phones.

Reuel Persaud, [rbpersaud@yahoo.com](mailto:rbpersaud@yahoo.com), 612-208-3081, Chairperson.

Karen Brehmer, [karen.brehmer@comcast.net](mailto:karen.brehmer@comcast.net), 612-799-7069. Communicator.

Ben Allen, [bgallen@carleton.edu](mailto:bgallen@carleton.edu), 763-242-3311

Naomi Witzke, [witzken@hotmail.com](mailto:witzken@hotmail.com), 763-843-3035

Rose Wangen, [rose\\_wangen@hotmail.com](mailto:rose_wangen@hotmail.com), 763-614-7570

Cheryl Wallenfelt, [wallenfelt@comcast.net](mailto:wallenfelt@comcast.net), 612-849-8525

# LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE... IN WORSHIP



## *Music Director's Notes*

As we come to November light is fading away as our days grow shorter. Similarly, in the church, in November we enter the “end days” of the church year. But in both cases we know that the light will be returning! So it is a time of hope and remembrance rather than a time of sadness!

In November we have several celebrations. We start November with the celebration of All Saints Sunday when we celebrate the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ and rejoice in their gifts. For our All Saints celebration the Hope Chorale will sing *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* by Eric Nelson. Sunday, November 14, Hope Bells will ring *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* by Sandra K. Tucker; November 21, the Hope Chorale will sing *Laudate Dominum* by Dan Davison. Sunday, November 28, we observe the First Sunday of Advent as we begin and new church year and the Hope Chorale will sing *A Waiting Carol* by Helen Kemp.

There are many exciting things happening in November as we celebrate the Light of Christ rather than the fading sunlight. Join us for the celebrations!

George

**WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY is  
planned for November 7, 14, 21,  
and 28th!**

Livestreaming will continue on Facebook  
([www.facebook.com/houseofhopemn](http://www.facebook.com/houseofhopemn))

As we work to keep our community safe, thank you for following our worship guidelines! Masks are requested for those all (vaccinated and unvaccinated, including children). Singing will be done by the choir only and individual communion cups will be provided. We are so glad to be worshipping in our sanctuary space again!



**Looking Ahead:  
Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Eve Services  
on Friday December 24th**

**2:00pm & 4:00pm**

# LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE... IN WORSHIP

## All Saints Sunday: November 7th

In the past year, we've lost many beloved House of Hope members along with family members and friends. On Sunday, November 7th, we will be lifting their names up as we remember them together and hold the promises of Christ as a community.

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 8:38-39



## Read Along with the Lectionary

Nov 7  
Gospel Mark 12:38-44, Psalm 146

Nov 14  
Gospel Mark 13:1-8, Psalm 16

Nov 21 (Commitment Sunday)  
Gospel Mark 4:35-41, Exodus 14

Nov 28  
Gospel Luke 21:25-36, Psalm 25:1-10



## Commitment Sunday: November 21st!

Please plan to bring your filled out commitment card for giving in 2022 to worship on Sunday, November 21st! What a blessing your generosity has been this past year and how much ministry we've been able to accomplish with your hard work and support!

After worship, plan to gather in the backyard for some celebratory treats as we give thanks for God's parting of the waters in this difficult time and the amazing ministry of House of Hope!

*Congratulations to  
Abby Hansen, Addison Harty,  
Emily Nightengale, Ellie Van  
Sistine, and Sophie Wangen  
for their confirmation  
on October 31st!*

*May the Holy Spirit continue to  
stir up within them as they share  
the love of God in their lives!*

# LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE... THROUGH FAITH FORMATION

## *Talk to Me about Faith & Money*

As we enter the season of Commitment Sunday and Thanksgiving, we consider how we steward our money and our time year round. Money can be a delicate subject, but it has deep memories and connections for all of us. Understanding why we feel the way we do about money can help us to guide our money decisions today. With a friend or by reflecting on your own in a journal, consider the following questions about your relationship with money:

- What is your earliest memory of money?
- What attitude did your parents/family have toward money?
- What is your happiest memory in connection with money?
- What is your unhappiest memory in connection with money?
- How do you feel about your present financial status as compared with past status?
- How does financial health fit in with your overall health?
- How do your values/your faith guide you in your use of money?
- What do you most worry about money-wise?
- In what ways are you generous with your money?
- How have others been generous with you?
- How do you think about giving money?
- How does church fit into that or not?
- How does this affect other aspects of your giving?
- What is your guiding principle when it comes to money?  
(Bible verse/quotes/books/people)

## *Expanding Welcome Statement*

With the help of Reconciling Works, the Outreach and Communications Team of House of Hope is seeking to update our Welcome Statement: both to more explicitly include gender identity, and also to expand our intentional support of racial justice work and congregation members who identify as black or indigenous people of color (BIPOC). Look for upcoming Adult Forums to begin our process of learning more and widening our welcome!



This is the *Day*  
that the Lord has made;  
let us *Rejoice*  
and be glad in it.  
Psalm 118:24

# WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL... IN OUR HOUSE OF HOPE COMMUNITY

## BIRTHDAYS

Blake Sundeen	Nov 1
Virgie Robinson	Nov 4
Arrianna Zirbes	Nov 9
Tom Behlke	Nov 10
Britta Walstrom	Nov 10
Rod Olson	Nov 12
Rose Wangen	Nov 12
Mona Rae Wanous	Nov 13
Eunice Gran	Nov 15
Becky Broeckel	Nov 20
Ryan Montgomery	Nov 20
Olivia Sundeen	Nov 23
Ella Mae Bjorkman	Nov 25
Chris Bearl	Nov 26
Erik Nyquist	Nov 30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Lynette Neus	Nov 9
Burt & Eunice Gran	Nov 14
Len & Pat Carlson	Nov 18
Eric & Maria Hanson	Nov 23

thankful  
grateful  
blessed

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING!

Thank you for keeping House of Hope in your prayers and for remembering your church with your financial support as we move through autumn.

Your kindness and steadfast love has not gone unnoticed!

Checks can be sent to:  
House of Hope Lutheran Church  
4800 Boone Ave N  
New Hope MN 55428



Or give online:

<https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/320a5513-a965-406a-b599-7324da2>

## Finance Team August Update

What a joyful month it has been at House of Hope as we kicked off the fall with 3 baptisms, Sunday School and confirmation beginning, and welcoming a new family! Though we are in a time of transition, we know that we are in good hands- the leaders you have lifted continue to serve our congregation well. We know that God is with us now in the midst of discernment and we know that God is welcoming us into the ministry of our future. We continue to be so grateful for your support of our shared mission here at House of Hope! Our ministry continues in this time because of you and your support!

	July 2021			Year to Date 2021		
	Budget	Actual	Difference	Budget	Actual	Difference
<b>Receipts</b>	\$ 32,758	\$ 29,830	\$ 2,928	\$262,063	\$261,621	\$ 441
<b>Disburs.</b>	\$ 32,503	\$ 38,663	(\$ 6,160)	\$269,081	\$306,586	(\$ 37,505)
<b>R less D</b>	\$ 255	(\$ 8,834)	\$ 9,088	(\$ 7,018)	(\$ 44,965)	\$ 37,946

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity!

# WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL... IN OUR HOUSE OF HOPE COMMUNITY

## WILDFIRE CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Wildfire Caregiver Support groups  
will meet at 10:00am on  
the First and Third Tuesdays of each month  
in the library at  
House of Hope Lutheran Church located at:  
4800 Boone Ave. No. in New Hope.

The overall GOAL of a caregiver support group is to  
enhance the caregivers' coping skills  
through mutual support and informational sharing.

### Questions?

Please contact our Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney,  
at 612-408-2049 or the co-facilitator  
Mary Ann Pukal, at 763-533-8333.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Masks and Covid-19 vaccinations required.



## Time for Prayer on Tuesdays

Pastor Gretchen is on Facebook Live at  
2:00 pm on Tuesdays. You can watch  
these on the House of Hope Lutheran  
Church Facebook page  
(@houseofhopemn) at any time or  
pause wherever you are at 2:00 pm on  
Tuesdays, knowing others are praying  
with you.

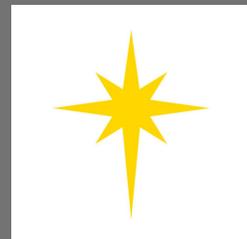
During the month of November, she  
will be reading through the books of  
Corinthians. Read along starting with  
Chapter 1 in 1 Corinthians on Tuesday,  
November 2 or simply tune in.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

As we return to worshipping in the  
sanctuary, volunteers are needed to read,  
usher, livestream on Facebook, and run  
the powerpoint presentation.

We are also looking for one or two  
additional worship assistants to lead  
prayers and work with the pastors during  
the service.

Sign up in the Narthex or talk to Pastors  
about learning more or signing up!



# WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL... TO OUR COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

## *PRISM and NEAR needs for November*

1. Gifts of Money - Please write a check to NEAR and/or PRISM with HOUSE of HOPE written in the memo line. This gift will allow each organization to purchase a greater amount of food.
2. Stocking Stuffers for infants through age 5, such as books, soft toys, etc.

Please bring items to HOH by November 18. Tables are set out in the Narthex for collection.

3. Volunteers for both NEAR and PRISM .

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING!  
CARE TEAM

## *Thrift Store Donations Support Home Free!*

ARC's Value Village, a thrift store & donation center in New Hope is a great partner for Home Free. Home Free, a shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence, gets credit for your donations to ARC Value Village- just mention "Missions Inc" as you donate. Clients of Home Free are able to shop from your donations!

Check out [www.arcvaluevillage.org](http://www.arcvaluevillage.org) for more information!



## *EVERY MEAL NEEDS*

At God's Work, Our Hands, we collected food and packed for Every Meal, the organization that the Wildfire Churches work with to provide Kidpack. They can always use more food!

### NON-PERISHABLE FOOD WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Fruit: Pineapple, peaches, mango, pears, applesauce, mandarin oranges, mango, prunes/raisins
- Vegetable: Carrots, Corn, mixed veggies, green beans, peas, bamboo shoots, baby corn
- Entrée: Chili, chicken noodle soup, pasta sauce, mac and cheese, ravioli, enchilada sauce, chipotle in adobo, diced chiles, diced tomato, tomato paste, fava beans, curry soup, coconut milk, curry paste, tomato soup
- Base/Grain: Rice, spaghetti, macaroni, oatmeal, corn flour, fideo noodle, rice noodle, bean thread noodle
- Protein: Tuna, chicken, black bean
- Snacks: Individually packaged and NUT-FREE



## *Kidpack- Volunteers and Financial Support Needed*

The Robbinsdale District plans to welcome volunteers into the schools beginning in September. We know that could change in a moment, but for now, volunteers are needed for Wildfire Every Meal distribution teams. We especially need people to serve at Forest Elementary, but Lakeview needs a few volunteers also. These volunteers spend about one hour on a Friday placing meal bags in kids' backpacks. Some serve weekly, others monthly.

Pease reach out to Deacon Kirsten at First Lutheran ([deaconkflcc@gmail.com](mailto:deaconkflcc@gmail.com)).

# WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL... TO OUR COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

## *National Lutheran Choir: All Saints and Christmas*

Join the NLC November 5-7 for both live and virtual All Saints programs to honor loved ones we have lost this past year, and mark your calendar on December 10 and 11 for the NLC's 36th annual Christmas Festival, The Earth Adorned.

At The Earth Adorned, we will view the birth of Christ alongside the beauty of this world through works for choir and instruments including Aaron David Miller's Chanticleer, Paul John Rudoi's Orbit Carol, and the Creation Suite by Dr. Larry Fleming. The Earth Adorned will include community singing of carols, recitations of poetry, and more echoing through the Basilica of Saint Mary.

All Saints: We Remember (Live Concerts): Nov. 5th and 7th  
Requiem Aeternam (Virtual Program): Available Nov. 6-8  
Tickets and Virtual Subscriptions available at NLCA.com

Christmas: The Earth Adorned (Live Concerts)  
Friday, Dec. 10th - 4:30pm and 8pm @ The Basilica of Saint Mary

Saturday, Dec. 11 - 8pm @ The Basilica of Saint Mary  
Adults and seniors: \$33 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free

Christmas: The Earth Adorned (Virtual stream)  
Available for viewing Dec. 10-12

For tickets and more information, visit NLCA.com or call 612-722-2301.



**ELECTION DAY  
IS NOVEMBER 2ND!**

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK  
AND SEE WHAT YOUR  
DISTRICT IS VOTING ON  
THIS YEAR!**

[HTTPS://MYBALLOTMN.SOS.STATE.MN.US/](https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/)



**JOIN THE WHITE AFFINITY  
GROUP IN THEIR WORK OF  
ANTI-RACISM**

The White Affinity Group plans to meet on the first Thursday of each month from 6:00-7:00pm.

If you'd like to join in the group and reflect on race, racism, and privilege with other House of Hope members, please reach out to Ben Allen (bgallen@carleton.edu, 763-242-3311).

**DO YOU HAVE AN  
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEXT  
MONTH'S NEWSLETTER?**

Email Pastor Gretchen at  
grode@hohlc.org or leave your  
announcement in his office mailbox.



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](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.