

# 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

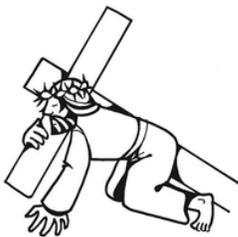
**MARCH 2022**

## ***Pastor's Letter: Walking with Jesus this Lent***

Dear House of Hope,

As we begin the month of March, we also enter the season of Lent, beginning on March 2nd with Ash Wednesday. From the marking of our ashy cross on our foreheads to the witnessing of Jesus dying on the cross on Good Friday, we think of Lent as a time where we walk with Jesus and align ourselves more closely with him. Now, at the end of March and a weary two years of pandemic, I'm thinking of that song "I want Jesus to walk with me," and how much I need Jesus walking beside me this Lent. I need Jesus to care for me, to show me the way, to feed me, to promise me everlasting life, and to remind me how to welcome and care for others. And, I'll bet you do too.

So, for the next several weeks, we'll be leaning into our Lenten theme "Walking with Jesus," as we explore five different "I AM" statements through midweek worship, prayer, healing, remembrance, service, and learning.



Jesus, who walks with us tells us, exactly who he is as he says:

- \*I am the Good Shepherd
- \*I am the Light of the World
- \*I am the Bread of Life
- \*I am the Resurrection and the Life
- \*I am the Door

So let's gather together, let's learn, let's pray for each other, let's honor and remember our losses, let's feed our neighbors, and let's learn together. Let's see how Jesus is already walking with us. Let's notice our Lord's footsteps and learn to better follow them. Let's walk with Jesus together.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

Amen? Amen.

Pastor Gretchen

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

## *Music Director's Notes*

March has arrived (even though it doesn't look or feel like it outside)! The arrival of March is significant of many things — the hope of Spring, weather starting to warm — but this year March brings the beginning of Lent. Lent is grounded in and modeled after the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, tempted by the devil. As people of faith, we lay aside those practices and material goods that lead us into temptation, and we take up the full armor of God, especially scripture, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. We join with the whole Christian community as it practices its participation in the death of Christ — that we might know the alleluia of the resurrection with Christ!

As we proceed through the Lenten journey our musical groups provide us with special music to assure and strengthen us as we make our way along the journey. On March 2 (Ash Wednesday), the Hope Chorale will sing *Create in Me* by Michael Burkhardt. March 6, the First Sunday of Lent, you'll hear *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* arranged by Richard Billingham sung by the Hope Chorale. Sunday, March 13, the Second Sunday of Lent, the Hope Chorale sings *When Twilight Comes* by Brian Wentzel. For the Third Sunday of Lent, March 20, the Hope Bells ring *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* by Kathleen Wissinger. On March 27, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Hope Chorale will sing *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* arranged by David Cherwien.

Join us on Sundays and Wednesdays as we journey through Lent.

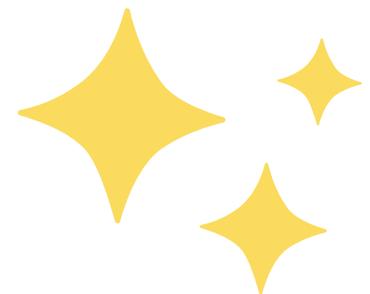
George



## **SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY is planned for March 6, 13, 20, 27th!**

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! Please mask. Starting in March, the choir will continue to sing the hymns and the congregation will be invited to sing along with the final hymn (please remain masked while singing). Individual communion cups will continue to be provided. We are so glad to be worshipping in our sanctuary space again!



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

## *Stewardship Corner: Ways to Exercise Good Stewardship of Lent and Easter*

1. Attempt a more intentional prayer life - start a habit of prayer in the morning and before bedtime.
2. Attend worship on Ash Wednesday. Wear your ashes out into the world as a witness to our faith.
3. Pray for someone with whom you are out of touch.
4. Resolve to stop engaging in rumors, gossip and negative chatter that devalues others.
5. Begin and end each week with an email thanking someone for all that they do.
6. Be sure to say grace at any restaurant that you frequent.
7. Reconcile with someone you've hurt or aren't speaking to.
8. Invite someone who's been away from the church to attend worship with you.
9. Make a gift to a charitable cause.
10. Thank a pastor for their public witness - invite them out for coffee or a meal.
11. Visit someone who is alone.
12. Reflect on the most pressing challenges confronting our church and pray for a Spirit-filled response.
13. Pray for the Minneapolis Area Synod bishop (Ann Svennungsen) and the ELCA presiding bishop (Elizabeth Eaton)
14. Keep a journal during Lent about your spiritual highs/lows.
15. Embrace periods of silence each day.
16. Get a book of daily spiritual reflections, keep it by your bed and read it upon rising or retiring or both.
17. Invite someone you know who will be alone to Easter Sunday dinner.

*Gracious Father, thank you for all the blessings you give to us. Open our eyes to see, and our hearts to share, the blessings you have sacrificed yourself to give us.  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen.*



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

## *Read Along with the Lectionary*

**March 6- First Sunday in Lent**

**Gospel Luke 4:1-13, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

**March 13- Second Sunday in Lent**

**Gospel Luke 13:31-35, Psalm 27**

**March 20- Third Sunday in Lent**

**Gospel Luke 13:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8**

**March 27- Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32, Psalm 32**



## **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 March, she will be highlighting the Lenten "I AM" of the week.**

## **Coffee Hour is Back!**



Starting Sunday, March 6 we will once again gather for coffee and cookies after the 10am worship service. Cookies will be provided by Cookie Cart. We ask that you continue to mask while visiting but you'll have to unmask to try those delicious cookies. Cookie Cart is the Twin Cities' leader in youth social enterprise. Their bakeries are classrooms, where hundreds of teens learn and build real world skills that prepare them for successful futures.

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANCE NEEDED!**

**As we return to worshipping in the sanctuary, volunteers are needed to greet, 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 Pastor Gretchen to learn more or sign up!**

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

## **"HOPE BEYOND LOSS" GRIEF/LOSS SUPPORT GROUP HOSTED BY WILDFIRE CHURCHES**

Have you lost a loved one recently? Would you benefit from learning more about grief and connecting with others who have also had a significant loss? The Wildfire Churches (House of Hope, Holy Nativity, Elim, Faith Lilac Way, First Lutheran, St. James, Cross of Glory, and Valley of Peace) are kicking off a new model of grief/loss support and you are welcome to join!

Our first 4-week session begins in March!

- March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm.
- First Lutheran Church of Crystal will host the first session, later session will rotate to different Wildfire Churches
- Each session will include gathering time with snacks (as we're able with Covid precautions), 20-30 minute speaker including Q&R time, 30 + minute small group discussion with topical questions
- Small groups of 4-8 people will be grouped together based on similar types of loss
- The Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney, will act as moderator
- \$20 suggested donation (scholarships always available!)

Please talk to Pastor Gretchen (grode@hohlc.org or 952-221-2939) to sign up for this first session in March and contact Deacon Kirsten Kessel at First Lutheran with thoughts or questions (763-458-7332 or deaconkkflcc@gmail.com).

Watch for the April *Letter of Hope* for updates to the Holy Week schedule (April 10th - April 17th)

# **Lenten Worship**

Join us for Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7pm (or online at 7pm) for scripture, prayer, Holy Communion, and receiving of ashes.

Then, let's "Walk with Jesus" this Lent! As we explore "I AM" statements of Jesus, we learn more about God who walks with us.

### **Wednesday, March 9 - Jesus says "I am the Good Shepherd"**

Come to House of Hope Wednesday, March 9th at 7pm for a Healing Service with song, scripture and blessing.

### **Wednesday, March 16 - Jesus says "I am the Light of the World"**

Come to House of Hope Wednesday March 16th at 7pm for a Prayer Vigil for the World with song, scripture, and highlighting of needs around the world.

### **Wednesday, March 23 - Jesus says "I am the Bread of Life"**

Pack food for Kidpack on Wednesday, March 23rd or Friday, March 25th from 1-3pm at EveryMeal, 2723 Patton Rd, Roseville, MN 55113  
Sign up at church - note whether you would be able to provide a ride or would need a ride!

### **Wednesday, March 30 - Jesus says "I am the Resurrection and the Life"**

Come to House of Hope Wednesday, March 30 at 7pm for a Service of Remembrance with shong, scripture, and prayer.  
Bring a token or picture of a loved one who has died or something lost.

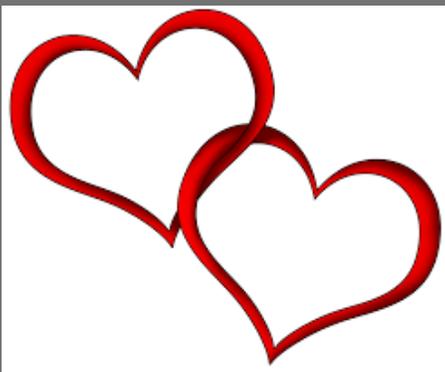
### **Wednesday, April 6 - Jesus says "I am the Door"**

Come to House of Hope Wednesday, April 6 at 7pm for a lecture with Austen Hartke, author of "Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians," on Reading the Bible as Welcome.

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

## BIRTHDAYS

Addison Zirbes	March 1
Daisy Haney	March 2
Dorothy Carpenter	March 6
Erin Paulsen	March 6
Chase Smith	March 7
Deb Mans	March 8
Tom McGrath	March 8
Theodora Haney	March 9
Taylor Smith	March 13
Patti Remple	March 17
Ashley Anderson	March 20
George Zirbes	March 20
Jill Jensen	March 21
Barb Drenth	March 22
Jean Johansen	March 22
Landen Kukachka	March 24
Karen Brehmer	March 25
Celeste Gonzalez	March 26
Ray Henderson	March 26
Glorian Anderson	March 27
Thomas Hahn	March 30
Virginia Hansing	March 30



## ANNIVERSARIES

Orv & Betty Johnson      March 10

## 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 into a new year. Your kindness and steadfast love has not gone unnoticed! What an exciting time to be in ministry together!

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 2022 Update Thank you for your GENEROSITY!

God's abundance is clearly visible through you and your generosity. We begin 2022 with renewed energy and hope that the God of abundance and grace will continue to show up for us. 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!

	January 2021		
	Budget	Actual	Difference
<b>Receipts</b>	\$28,980	\$28,815	\$165
<b>Disbursements</b>	\$30,663	\$27,507	\$3,156
<b>R less D</b>	\$(1,683)	\$1,308	(\$2,991)

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity!

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



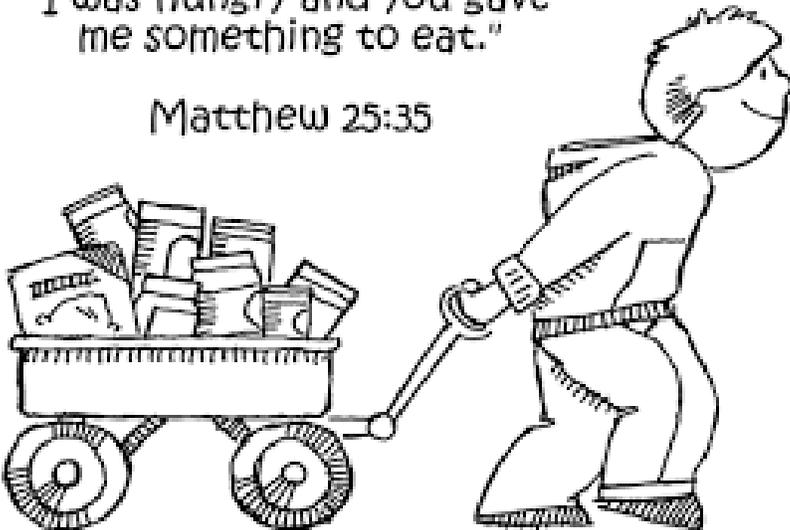
## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO "FILL THE TRUCK"

This year, Minnesota FoodShare is partnering with Two Men and a Truck and CUB in Plymouth for a "Fill the Truck" event in an effort to collect more food for this campaign. They will be stationed outside of CUB located at 10200 6th Ave. N., Plymouth on Saturday, March 19th and Sunday, March 20th from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM. They are in need of volunteers to help fill the truck as they accrue food donations throughout the day. Shifts are 3 hour shifts are available between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, and they would prefer 3-4 volunteers for each shift. **This is a great opportunity for families and groups to volunteer!**

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering for this event please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/OxnOXFx>

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

Matthew 25:35



## RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP

House of Hope's Racial Justice Group continues to meet the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. We are currently making our way through the book "A Good Time for The Truth" - Race in Minnesota. We invite new members to join us in this effort to examine our role in the work to create a more just society.

**13 members of House of Hope will soon begin a process of discernment using the Intercultural Development Inventory. We will use the inventory and consulting a counseling from Leaderwise to assess our current cultural competence and guidance for our future efforts to equip House of Hope to be an even more welcoming and culturally understanding church in the future.**

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



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

## ***CONCORDIA CHOIR IN CONCERT***

Hear one of the nation's finest college choirs perform Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Michael Culloton conducts the 69-voice a cappella choir on his first tour in a varied concert ranging from Renaissance motets to contemporary choral works.

Visit **ConcordiaTickets.com** for tickets today!



## ***EVERY MEAL NEEDS***

Every Meal (the organization the Wildfire Kidpack works with to distribute weekend meals) is currently NOT able to accept non-perishable food items.

They do need your financial support!!



***You can make checks to House of Hope with Every Meal in memo.***

House of Hope currently has 2 groups serving Lakeview and Forrest Elementary schools.

If you are interested or have questions please contact Ben Allen 863-242-3312 , Gary Bearl 763 - 537-1037 or Kris Allen 763-202-5139

## ***TASTE OF THE 'BURBS WATCH PARTIES***

Thursday, May 19th, 2022, PRISM will host its 9th Annual Taste of the 'Burbs fundraiser. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact our neighbors and will for many months to come. The event will celebrate the unique role PRISM plays in helping vulnerable members of the community build healthy, stable lives. Stay tuned for viewing locations.

Funds raised at Taste of the 'Burbs will support the basic needs services provided to more than 5,500 children, adults, and seniors who come to PRISM seeking healthy food, proper clothing, and housing stability. For over 50 years, PRISM has relied on our community in order to serve those in need.

Questions? Contact Alisha Weis, Advancement Manager at [aweis@prismmpls.org](mailto:aweis@prismmpls.org)

## ***Dinner at Your Door; Now Meals on Wheels***

New drivers needed to assist with delivering Meals on Wheels (formerly called Dinner At your Door). At this time, House of Hope has committed to 2 drivers on the Second Friday and 3 Drivers for the Fourth Tuesday of each month. This is an approximate 3-hour commitment. Meals are picked up around 10:30 a.m. We now need to pick up the meals in Brooklyn Center at Northwest Family Services.

CEAP Meals on Wheels drivers deliver hot, nutritious, lunch-time meals for 450 seniors and individuals in 9 cities who are not able to prepare meals or leave their homes. Volunteers help make this program about More Than A Meal. When our drivers deliver meals. They also deliver independence, safety checks, and friendship. If any of you would consider driving for this program or have questions, please contact Linda Moen at 763-559-1811 (or cell 612-763-6519).

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

## MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MARCH CAMPAIGN FEBRUARY 28 - APRIL 10, 2022

NEAR needs your help to provide food support to our community. March is the time of the year when Minnesotans come together to raid funds and collect food for food shelves in their communities.

Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity due to the Covid-19 pandemic, making it critical to focus on creating a more just and equitable food system that meets the needs of all Minnesotans. Currently the food rescue partners that NEAR depends on have had to scale back on their food donations. To offset this, we purchase specific food items that we need in order to serve our clients.

Donations made during the month of March are important because additional grant money is awarded to food shelves based on how much food and money they can raise during the campaign.

Both cash and food donations would be greatly appreciated. Please make checks out to NEAR, or your church, with NEAR in the memo line. Monetary donations can also be made securely online at:

[www.near@nearfoodshelf.org](mailto:www.near@nearfoodshelf.org)

Click on the Give to the Max icon. Food donations will be coordinated and collected at the individual churches.

**THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS  
MADE TO:  
Lutheran Social Services, PRISM  
and Loaves and Fishes**



### *Expanding our House of Hope 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).



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

Email Jeannie Johnson at [office@hohlc.org](mailto:office@hohlc.org) or leave your announcement in her 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

[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.