

July 2022 Letter of Hope

Living out God's grace we seek to be neighbors to all!
House of Hope Lutheran Church
New Hope, MN



*Come worship together with us in the sanctuary at 10 am!
Masking is now optional inside the building.*

Pastor's Letter:

Dear House of Hope,

Many of you have asked about my plans for sabbatical and one of the main plans is to rest. We talk a lot as a church community about following Jesus and trying to live as he lived. One thing we rarely discuss is how often Jesus rests. To name a few: Jesus is sitting and resting when he meets the woman at the well (John 5); he goes off on his own to pray often, perhaps most notably before his sermon on the mount (Matthew 5 & Luke 6); and he is sleeping in the boat when the storm begins to rage (Matthew 8, Mark 4, Luke 8). Jesus takes time to rest - before big events like preaching or healing, after difficult moments like overwhelming crowds or when John the Baptist is killed. Jesus rests.

Resting is perhaps one of the most important parts of our humanity. We all need rest - sleep and time off and deep breaths. This is required for us to function.

And, yet our culture tries to convince us that we could always be doing more, accomplishing more, achieving more.

And, so, dear friends, I invite you this month to rest with me.

Really.

Take a deep breath. In and out. And another.

Close your eyes. Envision yourself with Jesus - on a mountain side or in a boat rocking side to side or sitting at a well in the middle of town. Hold out your hand to let him hold you. Rest in the love and care and grace of Jesus. Rest. And breathe. In and out. Again.

You are loved. You are beloved. You are allowed, invited, and commanded to rest.

May it be so,

Pastor Gretchen

P.S. I wrote this ahead of time - don't worry, I'm resting!



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We are thankful to be worshipping in person again! House of Hope will also continue livestreaming worship services on Facebook. (www.facebook.com/houseofhopemn) Masking is optional within House of Hope. The congregation is invited to sing along with the hymns. 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... IN WORSHIP

Music Director's Notes

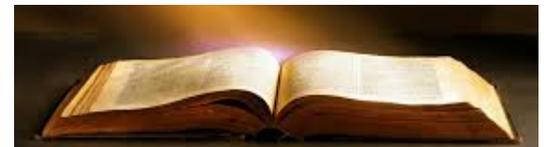
Summer is not a liturgical season per se, but it does coincide with the beginning of a long period in the church calendar often called Ordinary Time or the Time after Pentecost. This is the time in the church year between Trinity Sunday and the beginning of Advent. Because one insight of Christian faith is that the ordinary and mundane, the earthly, the baby born in Bethlehem and small portions of bread at communion, are in fact extraordinary, we are invited in this ordinary time to consider the beauty of the plain, the everyday, the simple. They are, in the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, "charged with the grandeur of God." So summer, flowing out of the celebrations of Pentecost and Trinity, is the beginning of the time in which we find the "extra" in the "ordinary." If labels are required for this season, perhaps we ought to call it "Extraordinary Time."

— *Sunday and Seasons*

As we continue to enjoy our Minnesota summer let us rejoice in all the ordinary around us — green grass, blooming flowers, fluffy clouds (that don't bring rain!), warm days that don't require us to bundle up in layers, laughter, and all of God's gifts to us tangible and intangible.

We also need to remember to enjoy the "ordinary" music of our worship each Sunday, our singing together. Weekly I am thrilled and energized by the singing that you do as we join in the hymns and liturgy. This simple act joins us as one body and makes our ordinary extraordinary!

George



Read Along with the Lectionary

**Join us for coffee,
cookies, and
fellowship
Sundays
after worship!**



July 25 through July 29 Jeannie will be on vacation. There will be limited office hours that week. 'Office angels' will be tending to the office in her absence.

July 3: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 14
Gospel Luke 10:1-11, 16-20, Psalm 66:1-9

July 10: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 15
Gospel Luke 10:25-37, Psalm 25:1-10

July 17: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 16
Gospel Luke 10:38-42, Psalm 15

July 24: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 17
Gospel Luke 11:1-13, Psalm 15

July 31: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 18
Gospel Luke 12:13-21, Psalm 49:1-12

We Seek to be Neighbors to all... To Our Community Outside Our Walls

EVERY MEAL MIDSUMMER FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, June 22, House of Hope was the scene of the Every Meal Midsummer Fundraiser.

The event was hosted by the Wildfire churches which consists of: Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Elim Lutheran Church, Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church, Valley of Peace Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church of Crystal, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, St. James Lutheran Church, House of Hope Lutheran Church.

Wildfire is a collaboration of ELCA churches within the geographic area of the Robbinsdale School District.

Together the Wildfire churches sponsor Every Meal at three elementary schools: Forest, Lakeview and Meadow Lake. Valley of Peace sponsors Nobel Elementary separately.

Music was provided by The Peggy Bartunek Band and The Fleshpots of Egypt. Chuck Wagon Catering prepared the pig, there was also salads, chips, and baked beans. Culver's donated frozen custard. Individuals were blessed with the beautiful weather and gentle breeze.



Thank you to everyone who donated their gift of time, talent, food, and items for the raffle. 200 tickets were sold for the pig roast. Numerous raffle tickets were sold for great prizes. The lucky winner of the grand prize received a fall get away to the Brainerd Lakes Area. Congratulations to all of the winners!

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

Stewardship Corner:

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29

On July 10, our Gospel reading will be the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37. In this parable, Jesus tells a story about a man in need who receives compassionate care from a person who was supposed to be his enemy.

Jesus tells the parable in response to a question from a lawyer, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responds with two questions. "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" The lawyer answers, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." He had given the right answer.

But the lawyer wanted to "justify himself" so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" The lawyer's intention, it seems, was to limit the understanding of who rightly can be considered his neighbor, in other words, to limit the range of people he must love.

Jesus was having none of that. At that time, the Samaritans and Jewish people held deep-seated resentments against each other. Jesus made the hero of the story a hated enemy of the lawyer. A villain was the hero! The answer to the lawyer's last question is clear. If even enemies are defined as neighbors, then certainly anyone less hostile deserves assistance. In other words, the term "neighbor" is all-inclusive in God's kingdom.

When Jesus finished the parable, he doesn't ask the lawyer who in the parable is his neighbor. Jesus asks, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The lawyer wants to know who deserves his love. Jesus replies by showing how authentic love will seek out, even in the unlikeliest of places, neighbors to receive compassion and care.

Lord, help me to see the world as you do, and to show love and mercy to others, regardless of who they are. Amen.



Pastoral Care Coverage over Pastor Gretchen's Sabbatical

If you have a pastoral care emergency- a death in the family, a major medical shift, family concerns, or a need for prayer or reflection with a pastor- please reach out to these Wildfire partners. Pastor Gretchen will be honoring her sabbatical time by stepping away from email, texts, and phone calls. She will return on Monday, July 18th and can meet with you during that week if concerns persist. She will hold you and these pastors in her prayers while she is away.

July 3rd - July 10th: Pastor Ashley Updegraf, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church
636-448-7751 (cell) pastorashley@holynativity.net

July 11th - July 17th: Pastor Jason Wahlstrom, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church
612-599-0119 (cell) pastorjason@holynativity.net

We seek to be neighbors to all... outside of our walls, in our community

Racial Justice Group

In 1993 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America adopted the Social Statement, **Freed in Christ, Race, Ethnicity, and Culture**. The statement is founded in the belief that the church has been gathered in the joyful freedom of the reign of God as announced by and embodied in Jesus. The statement expresses the ELCA's calling to celebrate culture and ethnicity. This calling commits the ELCA to confront racism, to engage in public leadership, witness, and deliberation on these matters, and to advocate for justice and fairness for all people.

In the opening section of the statement: "**Facing God: 1) A Time of Vision**", we are reminded through scripture why social and racial justice are an important part of our faith and ministry.

"For us as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America there is one God and Lord, Jesus Christ, "...through whom are all things and through whom we exist" (1 Corinthians 8:6).

Scripture speaks of one humanity, created by God. It recounts our rebellion and enslavement to sin. Scripture tells of a diverse people reconciled to God through the blood of the cross, a people set free for the work of reconciliation. It heralds a new freedom and future in one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

If the story of Babel is of a people scattered, the story of Pentecost is of a people called and gathered. Christ brings together the scattered children of God (John 11:52). The Holy Spirit breathes the freedom of the Gospel into the Church, where every people under heaven is represented.

A Humanity enslaved to sin has been set free; a Church has been gathered in freedom. Cultural differences still matter, but they can be seen for what God intends - blessings rather than means of enslavement."

As a church we know that in our daily lives, cultural, ethnic, and racial differences matter, but they should be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be - blessings rather than a means for discrimination, oppression and marginalization. Our church is a place for everyone and at House of Hope "we seek to be neighbors to all".

To read more of the social statement, **Freed in Christ, Race, Ethnicity, and Culture**, please go to the following website, <https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>

Please join us on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm for our regular Racial Justice Group Meeting. Contact Ben Allen with questions, or to join: bgallen@carleton.edu, 763-242-3311.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Who: Children ages 3 and up through completion of the 5th grade

Where: Elim Lutheran Church, 3978 W Broadway Ave, Robbinsdale 55422

When: Monday, August 1 through Thursday, August 4 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 (\$50.00 max per family) scholarships available, if needed

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/dRzmfz5rK7sL8WsJ7>

Registration deadline: Sunday, July 17



Join us in learning about Bible Heros like David, Mary, Deborah, and Daniel! Learn how Jesus helps us to be strong, courageous, helpful and fearless while having fun singing, making crafts, playing games, and being friends.

If any teens or adults would like to volunteer to help at this years VBS, if you have questions, or would like scholarship information, contact Jennifer Gonzalez at (612) 308-2422 or lukejen_2001@hotmail.com

We Seek to be Neighbors to all... In our House of Hope Community

New Addition to the Sanctuary

The next time you are in the sanctuary make sure to a peek at the new risers. The risers were delivered June 23 and the SJMC set them up.



Back row: Ben Allen, Orv Johnson, Gary Bearl, Len Carlson Front row: Joe Brehmer, George Brooke



Orv Johnson and Tom Broeckel rolling in the risers.



George Brooke, the Wenger delivery driver, and Joe Brehmer getting the risers out of the semi.

Finance Team Update:

Thank you for your GENEROSITY!

God's abundance is clearly visible through you and your generosity. We continue to be 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!

May 1 through May 30, 2022

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$28,980	\$38,700	\$(9,720)
Disbursements	\$29,359	\$35,047	\$(5,688)
R less D	\$(379)	\$3,653	\$(4,032)

Year to date January 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$144,899	\$159,941	\$(15,042)
Disbursements	\$150,433	\$175,870	\$(25,437)
R less D	\$(5,534)	\$(15,929)	\$10,395

Thank you for keeping House of Hope in your prayers and for remembering your church with your financial support. Your kindness and steadfast love has not gone unnoticed! What an exciting time to be in ministry together!

Checks may 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>

Ken Erickson cutting the tree



Ben Allen and Ken Erickson



Jim Bursell loading debris



**Small
Jobs
Maintenance
Crew
Keeps Busy**

In addition to their normal weekly maintenance within the church and on the church property, the Small Jobs Maintenance Crew was busy on June 23, 2022 cutting down a tree on the church property.

Thank you all for keeping the church and grounds in tip top shape!

We seek to be neighbors to all... in our House of Hope Community



- July 8 Sophia Wangen
- July 10 Thomas Haney
- July 10 Isabel Sundeen
- July 12 Steve Burshiem
- July 12 Ella Follmer
- July 12 Ione Stedje
- July 14 Carol Hedican
- July 15 Gary Remple
- July 15 Karen Schaupp
- July 17 Adam Follmer
- July 19 Austin Ebert
- July 22 Kaela Halupnick
- July 27 Cheryl Wallenfelt
- July 28 Kayla Nyquist
- July 29 Michelle Follmer

July Guild Information

Coffee Servers

- 7/3 - Chris & Gary Bearl, Mandy Scott
- 7/10 - Kris & Ben Allen, Mandy Scott
- 7/17 - Mary & Gil Sundeen, Mandy Scott
- 7/24 - Becky & Tom Broeckel, Mandy Scott
- 7/31 - Marlene Holmquist, Sharon Johnson, Mandy Scott

Worship Assistants

- 7/3 - Erin Paulsen
- 7/10 - Chris Brewster
- 7/17 - Erin Paulsen
- 7/24 - Chris Brewster
- 7/31 - Kaela Halupnick

Live Stream

- 7/3 - Joe Brehmer
- 7/10 - Mark Jensen
- 7/17 - Mark Jensen
- 7/24 - Sam Wangen
- 7/31 - Joe Brehmer

Readers

- 7/3 - Marlene Holmquist
- 7/10 - Shirley Fulmer
- 7/17 - Mae Lou Thompson
- 7/24 - Betty Johnson
- 7/31 - Karen Brehmer

Greeters

- 7/3 - Chris Brewster
- 7/10 - Muriel Armstrong
- 7/17 - Nancy Elliot
- 7/24 - Nancy Elliot
- 7/31 - Nancy Elliot



- July 19 Ashton & Swaro Persaud
- July 25 Tom & Debbie Haney
- July 29 Robert & Sherry Olson

If you would like to join a guild, please contact the facilitator of the guild(s) you would like to be a part of. They would love to hear from you! Training will be provided, if needed.

<u>Guild</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Phone/Text Number</u>
Coffee	Kris Allen	763-202-5139
Greeter	Chris Bearl	612-227-2953
Livestream	Karen Brehmer	612-799-7069
PowerPoint	Kim Larson	763-218-4148
Reader	Mae Lou Thompson	763-544-5287
Usher	Becky Broeckel	763-447-5472



Guest Pastors

- July 3 - Reed Fowler (worship, no communion)
- July 10 - Rev. Kate Rueur Welton
(worship with communion)
- July 17 - Reed Fowler (worship, no communion)

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

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 the 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 763-242-3312
Gary Bearl 763 - 537-1037
or Kris Allen 763-202-5139

WILDFIRE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Wildfire Caregiver Support group meets at 10:00 am on the first and third Tuesdays each month at HOH.

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

There is no need to register for this group, just come! Our Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney is the facilitator along with Mary Ann Pukal as the co-facilitator.

Questions?
Contact Debbie at (612) 408-2049 or Mary Ann at (763) 533-8333

Do you have an announcement for the August newsletter?

Email Jeannie Johnson at office@hohlc.org or leave your announcement in her office mailbox before July 19.



PRISM TOTALS FOR APRIL & MAY

	April	May
Marketplace Food Shelf		
Households served	1,048	1,099
Individuals served	2,320	2,326
Number of visits	1,772	1,901
New participant households	220	223
Food distributed	129,323lbs	142,813 lbs
Shop For Change		
Total Sales	\$27,847	\$24,352
Total Transactions	1,888	1,707
Housing Line Calls	225	248
Volunteer Hours	1,891	1,768
Next Meeting:	Monday, July 11, 2022	
July Donation Drive Focus:	canned tuna, chicken, fruit	

Respite Care Started in June

Respite care kicked off on June 7 with two clients in attendance. Clients and volunteers enjoyed conversation, music, exercise, and delicious meals. Thank you to the volunteers for helping make this a successful gathering. If you know someone who could benefit from Respite Care or if you would like to become a volunteer, contact our Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney at (612) 408-2049. Respite care is the first and third Tuesdays each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at HOH. Training and supervision is provided by a Registered Nurse for all volunteers.

