

September 2023 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!*

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends of House of Hope,

Let's open today with a song!

*Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around
Turn me around, turn me around
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around
I'm gonna keep on a-walking, keep on a-talking
Marching up to freedom land.*



This is one of the chants that we sang on our recent Civil Rights Tour in Alabama. Many of the songs we sang were call and response spirituals, used by marchers in the 1950s and 1960s, and still used today in many black churches and as a part of the Poor People's Campaign (Martin Luther King Jr.'s final campaign before his assassination in 1968). One of my favorite things about this trip was how we shared in devotions and song each day. Sometimes on the bus, sometimes in the hotel, sometimes with the groups hosting and speaking with us. These songs and devotions each day were a good reminder that God was with us.

As we at House of Hope begin this fall of 2023, we continue to remember that God is with us in our work and our mission: Living out God's grace we seek to be neighbors to all. And, though we honor all the people and ministry that has brought our congregation to today, we also know- as the spiritual above reminds us- that we can't turn around. The world we are in today is much different than it was in the 1960s when people in Alabama were fighting for voting rights and integration and House of Hope was being founded. Our community is different; the challenges we face are different.

What remains the same is the God that centers us, loves us, offers us grace, and invites us to continue facing our challenges and the people around us with grace. The need for God's love and grace in our world remains as strong as ever. God's call to be in ministry in this time and place remains as well.

We at House of Hope seek to answer that call, to share God's love and grace in the world, to meet challenges with hope. This fall, we'll see many of the traditions of House of Hope we love: worship with singing, Rally Sunday, Oktoberfest, and, yes, maybe even some Lutefisk. And, we'll continue to meet the challenges of today as we seek to widen our welcome to LGBTQIA+ people and to educate ourselves in God's justice as we seek to work for racial justice and equality in our own neighborhood. We'll be entering a two-year cohort of Faith and Neighboring Practices with the Minneapolis Area Synod, learning how to be present and faithful out in our neighborhood as we practice our faith together. We'll be talking about a capital campaign and how our giving at House of Hope supports our mission and our work in the neighborhood.

It is such an important time to be church together and I'm thankful to serve with all of you at House of Hope! Blessings on you and your household this fall,

Pastor Gretchen

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

**Sunday Worship in the sanctuary is
planned for September 3, 10 & 24!**

**We will have outdoor Worship
Sunday, September 17!**

**Bible Study Begins Thursday,
September 14th!**

Join this small group to pray, read the Bible, and talk about faith together. No Bible knowledge required. Bibles available or bring your own! We're starting out with the book of Romans this fall. Thursday mornings, 11am, meeting in the library. See you there!

Minneapolis Area Synod Fall Women's Gathering

Saturday, November 4, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights, MN

Inspire Friendship

Bible Study • Worship • Connection • Music

Ignite

Explore Mental health & loneliness,
Social justice & women's imprisonment

Refresh

Coffee & Lunch, Childcare, Chair Massage, Yoga

Serve

On-site impact projects - Global market

Come to this incredible opportunity to connect, inspire and create a better world-- one act of love at a time!

Visit www.MplsWomenOfELCA.org to learn more and secure your spot for this transformative day!

Altar Flowers

Consider sponsoring altar flowers. The cost is \$20.00. Many dates are still available through the end of the year. Sign up by the front door.

Funerals/Memorials

Over the summer, we celebrated the life and resurrection of Kenneth Sundeen (died Apr 2022), Gene Moen (died June 2023), and LeAnn Quigley (died June 2023). Thanks to all who helped with their services. We also received word that Tom Hahn died in June 2023 and that his family held a service at the Cremation Society of America.

We give thanks for the lives of faith that they lived and for the promises of Christ who holds them all in his hands. We hold the families of Ken, Gene, LeAnn, and Tom in our prayers as they mourn.

A day retreat for *women*

just love
Fall Women's Gathering
Saturday, November 4, 2023
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1555 40TH AVE NE, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421

Register by *October 1* and receive a **FREE** \$10 gift card for the global market at the gathering.

The registration fee will be on a sliding scale based on your ability to pay.

Suggested amounts are:
\$25, \$50, \$75



LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE... IN WORSHIP

Music Director's Notes

It's September! It seems like it was June yesterday, but here we are starting September and fall is starting to make its presence felt. This means that we resume our regular program of activities at House of Hope. Our music groups have begun rehearsals and you will soon hear the fruits of that effort in our worship services. There is always room for additional singers or ringers and you are welcome to join us at any time. For those of you who are snowbirds or have erratic schedules we can find a way for you to participate. So don't hesitate, join the fun. Music is not a spectator sport! It is truly a team activity and we have room on our teams for everyone as we have fun making music and glorifying God!

Starting September 10, we will switch to a different musical setting of the liturgy for our worship services to help mark the change of seasons. We will be using a musical setting by Tillis Butler, a black musician, which he wrote for the This Far by Faith hymnal. Mr. Butler's music reflects his African American heritage while using the "standard" texts that we all know. The Hope Chorale will lead us as we learn this new music, so listen as you learn and join in as you feel comfortable.

In September the Hope Chorale returns to our Worship Services and you'll hear them sing a variety of music. Sunday, September 10, they will sing Everywhere I Go by Natalie Sleeth; on Sunday, September 17, you will hear In All Our Grief and Fear We Turn to You by Thomas Keesecker; September 24, the Hope Bells will ring Love Lifted Me by Sandra Eithun.

George



You're Invited...

...to an Appreciation Brunch. On Sunday, October 8, we are hosting an Appreciation Brunch for all the people of House of Hope. Following the Worship Service just step across the hall into Fellowship Hall for brunch. After seventeen years at House of Hope we want to express our appreciation for all that the people of House of Hope have done for us. So everyone is invited. Come and have brunch with us!

George and Linda Brooke



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

Save the Date

September 16, 2023
House of Hope will be hosting ...



We are excited to be hosting Oktoberfest again this fall!

Join us Saturday, September 16 starting
at 3:00 p.m. in the north parking lot and
backyard at House of Hope for our annual
Oktoberfest celebration!

Bring your friends and neighbors!

There will be a Gift Basket Silent Auction, Wine
Pull or Gift Card Pull, and a "50/50 Raffle"

Contact Karen Brehmer at 612-799-7069 or
karen.brehmer@comcast.net with questions.

Want to Talk with Pastor Gretchen?

Whether you are in a time of discernment, in need of
prayer, or seeking time with Pastor for another reason,
she would love to meet with you!

Pastor Gretchen is in the church office Tuesdays and
Thursdays from 9am-1pm. If you'd like to meet with her
outside of those times, please set up a meeting via email
(grode@hohlc.org) or phone (952-221-2939). When
Pastor Gretchen is not in the office, she is working from
home, meeting with other church leaders around the
Cities, or visiting members. She takes Fridays as a
Sabbath day. Thank you for holding her, her ministry,
and her family in your prayers.

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!

July 1 through July 31, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$31,923	\$27,849	\$4,075
Disb.	\$32,507	\$34,891	\$(2,384)
R less D	\$(583)	\$(7,042)	\$6,459

Year to date January 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$223,465	\$223,263	\$202
Disb.	\$227,549	\$238,231	\$(10,682)
R less D	\$(4,084)	\$(14,968)	\$10,884

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](https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/320a5513-a965-406a-b599-7324da2)



Thank you!

Thank you for your
generosity in
supporting
Luther Seminary,
NEAR, Lutheran
Social Services,
and PRISM.

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

Stewardship Corner: *STEWARDSHIP OF EMOTIONS*

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord... Jonah 4:1-2a

Remember the story of Jonah? God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people that God was very angry with them because of their sinful ways. Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, so he boarded a ship heading for Spain. During the trip, a storm came up that threatened to sink the ship. The sailors determined - by casting lots - that Jonah was the cause of the storm because he was running from God. Jonah told them to throw him overboard and the storm would stop. So, they did, and the storm did stop. Jonah was swallowed by a large fish and was in its belly for three days and nights. Jonah prayed to God to save him, and the fish spewed Jonah out on dry land.

Now Jonah was ready to go to Nineveh. He warned them that their city would be overthrown in forty days because of God's anger toward them. Well, they believed what Jonah told them and turned away from their evil ways. God was merciful and did not bring about the calamity that God had planned.

That really made Jonah mad. To be fair, though, he had a reason. Nineveh was part of the Assyrian empire. The Assyrians were a vicious group of violent conquerors. God had used Assyria multiple times to punish unfaithful Israel. Even though they had repented, Jonah probably thought that they still deserved to be punished. But what Jonah forgot at his moment of anger, was that God had had mercy on him and all of Israel many times.

Stewarding emotions is a challenge for Christians. Created in the image of God (that's where emotions come from), we often struggle with a proper balance: not letting our emotions run away with us, while making ourselves vulnerable by letting our emotions show.

The fact is that God delights in our emotions. He wants us, like God, to feel and to express and sometimes even to vent. But we as God's stewards are still responsible for how we handle our emotions. God desires that we as his image-bearers exercise self-control, without becoming lifeless and dull.

Lord, help us properly express our emotions, and in so doing, help us to remember that these very emotions are what make us like you. Amen

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



Read Along with the Lectionary

Sept 3: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 22
Gospel Matthew 16:21-28, Psalm 26:1-8

Sept 10: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 23
Gospel Matthew 18:15-20, Psalm 119:33-40

Sept 17: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 24
Gospel Matthew 18:21-35, Psalm 103:1-13

Sept 24: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 25
Gospel Matthew 20:1-16, Psalm 145:1-8

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

EVERY MEAL

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!!

**Checks can be made payable 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



Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

Welcome to the Faith Practices & Neighboring
Practices Learning Community!

House of Hope is thrilled to have received an invitation to be a part of the **2023-2025 Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices** learning community. Over the next two years we will develop and sharpen skills in practices that sustain our relationship with God (Faith Practices) and practices that sustain our relationship with our neighbor (Neighboring Practices), all with a vision toward participating in the work that God is already up to in our communities.

There will be a fall retreat (dates TBD).

House of Hope is a part of the **North Minneapolis Plus Cohort** which includes these congregations:

- Christ the River of Life Lutheran Church
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Nativity Lutheran Church
- House of Hope Lutheran Church
- Family of God Lutheran Church
- Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church



WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL... OUTSIDE OF OUR WALLS, IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Sabbatical Report 2023

As many of you know, over the summer of 2022 and 2023, I was awarded 12 weeks of sabbatical by House of Hope. As a pastor, I so value and understand the importance of sabbath as a gift from God to affirm our belovedness and humanity. As I stepped into the role of Senior Pastor here at House of Hope in January 2022, after two years of pandemic, I knew that I would need to lean into sabbath and balance in order for our ministry together to thrive.

What did my time away include?

- 1) A gift of time- for 12 weeks without work offered me free time to do things I love. I was able to revisit what I enjoy and what brings me life. I spent time sitting outside, reading novels, walking the dog, and visiting with friends and family. These are things I do normally, but it was a gift to have time specifically just for that and to not have to squeeze them in around other obligations.
- 2) A gift of family- as many of you know, my wife, Jill, and I added four children to our family in 2020. We continue to learn and grow together as a family and this time away allowed me to really be present with my kids. We had a long trip together in the summer of 2022 (more on that in the next paragraph) and were able to get up to the North Shore for hiking and exploring, as well as to Camp Northern Lights for Family Camp in both 2022 and 2023.
- 3) A gift of travel- in the summer of 2022, my family was able to take a two-week trip to Arizona and California to visit family and friends and (yes!) go to Disneyland! It was wonderful to have time to take this trip, as well as time to prepare for it and recover from it away from work. Additionally, in the summer of 2023, I was able to accompany my wife, Jill, on a two-week trip to Korea with a group of other adoptees and their families. It was a gift to be with her on this journey and to explore this amazing country together.
- 4) A gift of focus- this past summer, I became sick in our last few days in Korea and continued to recover once we returned home. I was upset to be ill during a whole week of my sabbatical. But, this time allowed me to realize that perhaps the true gift of this sabbatical time was my ability to focus on one thing at a time. I was able to really rest for a week and recover, to not worry about work piling up or what I was missing. When I was traveling or with my family, or even on a walk with the dog (Jasper), I was able to be fully present and focused on that one thing. This is a gift I hope to bring with me as I return to full time pastoring- to be able to be present as your pastor and when I'm home be present as a mom and wife and person. This focus and presence reminded me of the joys of each part of my life.

This gift of 12 weeks- 6 weeks each summer- was an opportunity for me to step away, to rest, to travel, to invest extra time in my family. I found delight in my time, my family, my travels, and my ability to focus, remembering the prophet saying, "If you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it...then you shall take delight in the Lord" (Isaiah 58:13-14). It was also a gift to see the beautiful ways you all lived into this time- welcoming guest preachers, reaching out to one another, leading in your roles. In this time of Sabbath for me, you all continued to be church together. I am so grateful for your care for one another and for me.

Thank you, Pastor Gretchen

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God's Work Our Hands

“ ‘God's work. Our hands.’ Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.” So says the ELCA website about this weekend that comes with Rally Day each year. In past years, House of Hope has worked together with other Wildfire Churches to do a particular service project, as well as worship and share fellowship together. Though we may return to that practice again, it feels like this time of year is too busy to focus our energy in that way.

And yet, we know that all of you serve in our community in so many ways. The generosity of time, energy, and money at House of Hope is amazing. So, this year for “God's Work. Our Hands,” we're inviting each of you to name the organizations or ways that your care and ministry is lived out. During the month of September, look for a bulletin board in the Narthex with the words “God's Work, Our Hands” on it. There will be cut outs of hands that you are invited to write the name(s) of all the organizations that you support with your time, energy, and money. This month we will honor the ways our mission of “living out God's grace, we seek to be neighbors to all” is lived out through each of you in your own generosity and service. Thank you for participating!



LIBRARY DAY RESUMES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11!

Library Day will resume Monday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. Come help keep the library organized, check out a book (or two, or three), or just come to socialize.

QUILTING RESUMES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12!

The quilters meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Come join the fun! Anyone is welcome, whether you are an experienced sewer, or you can tie a knot and use a scissor. All quilts created are donated to various locations such as homeless shelters and hospitals.

WELCOME, COOPER FOOTBALL

Beginning August 30, we welcome the Cooper varsity football team. They will be here every Thursday for their weekly spaghetti dinner throughout the season. **Go HAWKS!**



WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL... OUTSIDE OF OUR WALLS, IN OUR COMMUNITY!

SEPTEMBER 10 - RALLY SUNDAY

Please Join us for the Kick-Off of the Education Year!

HOUSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 4800 BOONE AVE N
10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE / 11 AM EDUCATION HOUR

Sunday School: Ages 3 – 5th Grade

Confirmation Classes: 6th Grade – 9th Grade

Youth Group: 9th Grade – 12th Grade

All-Age Family Activities each Month

RALLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10!

Join us for a Kick-off party to start the Sunday School year. Treats in the fellowship hall, activities and games for all ages in the Sunday School wing and outside in the back yard.

NEW THIS YEAR... the third Sunday of every month we will have an intergenerational get together in the Fellowship Hall. It will be something you won't want to miss!

REMEMBER to bring your backpacks for a special blessing for the new school year.

Make fleece tie blankets for NEAR's 2023 Toy Distribution Event!

At the 2022 event, we came up short with blankets for kids and we want to make sure that everyone who needs a blanket for their kids can get one this year! Our ask to partner churches is to see if you can get a group of people together (Youth Group, Men's or Women's Group, Older Adult Group) to purchase fleece material for blankets and actually make the blankets! The idea is to have groups make simple "Tie Blankets" throughout the Summer and Fall, so they can be ready for our event this December. Here's an image of what a fleece tie blanket looks like. You can go to Youtube to get simple directions as there are a few options for how to make the cuts and how to tie the fleece together. If you have any questions about this fun effort, please contact Dave and Gina Kiser (763-229-6580). Our goal is to have around 550 blankets available at the event in December!! Thank you for considering helping as we strive to have blankets for all that might need them!



Do you have an announcement for the October newsletter?

Email Jeannie Johnson at office@hohlc.org
or leave your announcement in her office
mailbox before September 20.

Calling all Knitters & Crocheters

It's hard to believe that winter is fast approaching!
If you knit or crochet, you can bless others with
your talent by creating hats, scarves, and mittens.
All items created will be donated to those in need.

WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL...

IN OUR HOUSE OF HOPE COMMUNITY

Happy Birthday!

Sept 1 Jim Bursell
Sept 4 Naya Gonzalez
Sept 7 Abby Hansen
Sept 9 BJ Bjorkman
Sept 9 Sharon Johnson
Sept 9 Kaitlyn Remple
Sept 13 Shirley Fulmer
Sept 13 Noah Montgomery
Sept 14 Herbert Lemire
Sept 16 Ashton Persaud
Sept 16 Gil Sundeen
Sept 19 Gale Friedrich
Sept 20 Paul Hansen
Sept 24 Shawn Follmer
Sept 24 Jean Wild
Sept 28 Swaro Persaud
Sept 28 Jana Van Sistine
Sept 29 Ryan Halupnick

Happy Anniversary!!

Sept 3 Lisa & Kevin Anderson
Sept 3 Shirley & Richard Fulmer
Sept 5 Jody & Bob Bonsen
Sept 10 Mary & Gil Sundeen
Sept 11 Annette & Paul Hansen
Sept 15 Marty & Ken Gorsky
Sept 16 Lynn & Jim Bursell
Sept 16 Jana & Jim Van Sistine
Sept 20 Karen & Joe Brehmer
Sept 21 Michelle & Shawn Follmer
Sept 23 Colleen & Steve Nightengale
Sept 25 Michelle & Scott Reger
Sept 28 Sharon & Arlen Johnson

September Guild Information

September 3

Altar Mary Sundeen

Coffee Theresa Henderson, Marlene Holmquist,
and Mandy Scott

Greeter open

LiveStream open

PowerPoint Ryan Halupnick

Reader Marlene Holmquist

Usher Gary Bearl

Worship Asst Erin Paulsen

September 10

Altar Chris Brewster

Coffee Sharon & Arlen Johnson, Marilyn Eggert,
and Mandy Scott

Greeter Nancy Elliott

LiveStream Sam Wangen

PowerPoint Sophie Wangen

Reader Karen Brehmer

Usher Tom Broeckel

Worship Asst Chris Bearl

September 17 - OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Altar Linda Moen

Coffee Lynne McGrath, Nancy Elliott, and Mandy Scott

Greeter Gary Wittmer

LiveStream Mark Jensen

PowerPoint Abby Hansen

Reader Mae Lou Thompson

Usher Joe Brehmer

Worship Asst Kaela Halupnick

September 24

Altar Kris Allen

Coffee Karen & Joe Brehmer, and Mandy Scott

Greeter Shirley & Richard Fulmer

LiveStream Joe Brehmer

PowerPoint Karen Brehmer

Reader Mae Lou Thompson

Usher Nancy Elliott

Worship Asst Chris Brewster

SEPTEMBER 2023 HAPPENINGS AT HOUSE OF HOPE

(Note: This calendar is subject to change.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
**Communion is served every Sunday.	Articles for the October Letter of Hope are due in the office no later than September 20.				1	2
3 10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour	4 Church Office Closed 7pm Boy Scouts	5 10am Caregiver Support 10am Respite Care	6 7pm Hope Chorale	7 9am SJMC Cooper Football Spaghetti Supper in the Fellowship Hall	8 Meals on Wheels	9
10 – Rally Sunday 10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour 11am Sunday School	11 9:30am Library Day 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Hope Bells	12 9am Quilting 7pm Ministry & Leadership Team Mtg	13 7pm Hope Chorale Cooper Football Spaghetti Supper in the Fellowship Hall	14 9am SJMC 11am Bible Study (in the library)	15	16 3pm – 8pm OKTOBERFEST!
17 10am Outdoor Worship** 11am Coffee Hour and Intergenerational Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall	18 7pm Hope Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	19 10am Caregiver Support 10am Respite Care	20 7pm Hope Chorale Cooper Football Spaghetti Supper in the Fellowship Hall	21 9am SJMC 11am Bible Study	22	23
24 10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour 11am Sunday	25 7pm Hope Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	26 Meals on Wheels 9am Quilting	27 7pm Hope Chorale	28 9am SJMC 9am Kitchen Krew 11am Bible Study Cooper Football Spaghetti Supper in the Fellowship Hall	29	30