

October 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 10:00 a.m.!
Masking is optional inside the building.

Pastor's Letter:

Dear House of Hope,

Last week I celebrated my 8th ordination anniversary, and I am so thankful to have spent these 8 years in ministry with House of Hope! My first couple of weeks here in 2015 included Sunday worship, getting to know Wildfire confirmation, a funeral, and Oktoberfest! I was wowed by House of Hope's sense of fun and vibrancy as I was welcomed to Oktoberfest. I was touched by the many members I saw walking through the narthex bringing bars and salads for the funeral. I was amazed by the ways that House of Hope works with other congregations in the area, offering supportive colleagues and shared ministry in this part of the Cities.

I continue to be wowed, touched, and amazed by the ways that House of Hope works together to bring hope to the neighborhood through fun events like Oktoberfest, to our members when they mourn through hosting funerals, to other Lutherans by working together, and to one another through our shared worship and ministry.

We need one another in shared community and in shared hope. So, we continue as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, saying *"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing"* (1 Thess. 5:11). *We know that when we gather together in hope, the Spirit of Christ is with us* (Matt 18:20).

This month, we continue to work together with other Christians in the work of hope. We begin our confirmation ministry, joining with the Wildfire churches for a service night. We will go on our first retreat with the Minneapolis Area Synod's Faith and Neighboring Practices Cohort. We gear up for our Lutefisk Dinner and pray for all who will enter our doors to share in this fun and delicious (?) holiday tradition.

This month, we will also have the opportunity to share stories of hope with one another as we vote on and, hopefully, launch our capital campaign. The work on our parking lot and building will allow us to continue to host fun events for the neighborhood, to allow voting and high school testing, to preserve space for worship and education, to continue to grow in all the ways that we share the love of God with one another.

As I begin my 9th year with you all as a partner in ministry as your pastor, I continue to give thanks for each of you and for the work that we are doing in this place. You remind me of the hope of Christ every day!

Pastor Gretchen



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

A day retreat for *women*



Fall Gathering

Saturday, November 4, 2023

9:00 am-4:00 pm

First Lutheran Church

1555 40th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Register by October 1st 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

Best State Celebration

Listen/ Learn/ Be informed

Join your neighbors Tuesday, October 10th

6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

Holy Nativity Lutheran church

3900 Winnetka Ave N.

Gather with your senate District 43 legislators (Senator Ann Rest, Representatives Mike Freiberg, and Cedric Frazier).

Listen and learn about the work that was accomplished this past legislative session with the powerful advocacy of people like you and me!

Find out how these new policies will impact /improve your lives and those of all our neighbors.

Sponsored by Isaiah, a community organizing coalition for making systemic change here in Minnesota. It works with and for people across race, faith, income, and gender to deliver climate, racial and economic justice.

Please let us know if you are hoping to come or have any questions.

Kris Allen 763-202-5139 (cell)

House of Hope member/ SD 43 Isaiah member
kristinmarieallen@gmail.com

Faith & Blue Fall Festival NEAR's 2nd Annual Fall Festival



Faith & Blue Fall Festival - NEAR's 2nd Annual fall festival with the Crystal Police Dept. will be held at NEAR on **Saturday, October 7th** from **Noon to 2pm**. Come and join us for food and fun. Please bring a non-perishable food donation.

LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE... IN WORSHIP

Music Director's Notes

October — what a wonderful month! Crisp, autumn weather. Gorgeous colors in the trees. (Too bad all this beauty is a harbinger of colder weather!) But fall is a beautiful time that reminds us of God's glory and inspires us. As we head towards November and Thanksgiving, we pray for creation. Especially these days we pray for strength to preserve creation and all that God has given us. But let us not just pray about creation but remember to live our daily lives caring for creation and re-create God's gifts among us!

During October our musical groups will be offering these compositions to enhance our worship: October 1, the Hope Chorale sings *Lord, You Have Searched Me* by George Frederic Handel arranged by Hal H. Hopson. Sunday, October 8, Hope Chorale will sing *Tree of Life* by K. Lee Scott. October 15, the Hope Bells ring *Love Lifted Me* by Sandra Eithun. Sunday, October 22, the Hope Chorale sings *Sing a New Song* by Heinrich Schutz arranged by Carolyn Jennings.

Sunday, October 29, we celebrate the heart of our faith as we celebrate Reformation and the Hope Chorale proclaims our faith in *In You, O Lord, I Will Place my Trust* by Allen Pote.

Let us worship together in praise and celebration throughout all the coming Sundays.

George

You're Invited...

...to an Appreciation Brunch. 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



Read Along with the Lectionary

Oct 1: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 26
Gospel Matthew 21:23-32, Psalm 25:1-9

Oct 8: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 27
Gospel Matthew 21:33-46, Psalm 80:7-15

Oct 15: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 28
Gospel Matthew 22:1-14, Psalm 23

Oct 22: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 29
Gospel Matthew 22:15-22, Psalm 96:1-13

Oct 29: Reformation Sunday
Gospel John 8:31-36, Psalm 46

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 29 is Reformation Sunday, we would like to see everyone wear **RED** on that day. Let's fill the sanctuary with **RED** October 29.



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



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

Stewardship Corner:

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

In the passage above, the apostle Paul commends the Thessalonians for imitating the Lord and Paul and his companions and for being examples to other believers. Paul repeatedly encouraged this wholesome following of examples.

Good stewards are aware of the influence that they have on others. In 1871, Henry Stanley was sent to Africa to search for David Livingstone, who was long overdue from his trip. Stanley found him and spent 4 months with him. Stanley went to Africa a confirmed atheist, but Livingstone's influence – his piety, gentleness, and zeal – won him over. Stanley became a Christian, saying, "I was converted by him, although he had not tried to do it." Livingstone was a good steward of his daily influence.

Lord, help me to imitate you in all I do, and help me to be an example to others. Amen.

We are collecting "stories of hope" for the upcoming Stewardship/Capital Campaign. We are asking for a paragraph or two about a time when you were given hope by House of Hope, or a time when you were involved in a House of Hope activity that gave hope to someone else. We will be putting together a daily devotional of these stories for the congregation to prepare our pledges. We would love to hear your "story of hope!" Please submit your story of hope to the church office at office@hohlc.org or leave your story on the front desk by **October 15th**.

National Lutheran Choir 2023-2024 Season

All Saints: New Life Sunday, November 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Normandale Lutheran Church Edina

Christmas Festival: New Hope

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Friday, December 8th at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 9th 1:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Full season information and tickets at

NLCA.com or call 612-722-2301

Virtual subscription also available.



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

Racial Justice Group

Article credit, Sheletta Brundidge: 9/20/23 Star Tribune

Alexander Mattison plays at the highest level. But even an elite NFL running back can literally drop the ball sometimes. In the September 17 Vikings loss to the Philadelphia eagles, Mattison lost a first-quarter fumble.

Like an attorney who loses a case, a politician who loses an election, or a physician who loses a patient, Mattison is a highly capable professional who is also imperfect. Every fan knows that it's the flukes that make the games unpredictable and thrilling. If players never struck out, blew a free throw or missed a goal, the play wouldn't be sporty at all. But Mattison's on-field flub led to a torrent of hateful racist rants. He screen shotted two of the more than 60 'disgustingly disrespectful messages' that contained slurs and even urged him to take his own life. The NFL, the Vikings and countless fans have publicly decried the venom that Mattison was subjected to. I'm sorry to tell you that Mattison's experience is not unique. Sadly, Black professionals, especially those of us with a high profile, can relate. I know because it happens to me. Not once, not occasionally, but on a regular basis.

As a radio personality on WCCO Radio, I get ugly, racist threats all the time. Some folks who listen to "the Good Neighbor" don't like hearing the voice and opinion of a Black woman over the airwaves. My job as a professional is to educate, entertain, and inform listeners. But whether I am hosting my own show or bantering with a co-worker like Chad Hartman, nasty, racist messages come in; on the phone, via text or through social media channels. During my frequent appearances on Chad's daily radio program, he blocks the worst of them so i don't have to see them. He regularly feels compelled to say to his listeners, "You can disagree with Sheletta if you like, but these messages are wrong." That's not all. I even get hate-filled hand-written letters in my mailbox at the station. They insult me, threaten me, urge me to return to the continent from which my ancestors were forcibly removed. What astonished me at first was that these people were glad to make these racial slurs using their real names. They boldly put their return address on their envelopes. They wanted to remind me that I'm not welcome and that there are no consequences for the pain they intentionally inflict. These threats and the fear of violence that could accompany them are why i have a security person with me when I'm involved in public events in the community.

Sadly, the disrespect for Black professionals is part of the game. It happens no matter how many degrees we earn, what awards we win or what accolades we may accumulate. The people who crudely criticized Alexander Mattison didn't care that he was just named Community MVP of the NFL Player's Association for hosting a back-to-school event through his I Am Gifted foundation for 250 underserved Minnesota kids. When they watched the Vikings and the Eagles, the didn't see a man who mishandled the football. They saw a Black man and then they used his race to make their cruelty cut even more sharply. Black professionals know we have to be thick skinned, but we should not have to endure this kind of routine hostility. I should be able to say something you disagree with, and Alexander Mattison should be able to fumble the football. We ought to have the right to give 100% of our talent and yet still fail. Those of you who are our allies must speak up, whether the slurs or threats are verbalized or on social media. As Mattison wrote on Instagram, "Under the helmet, I am a human... a father... a son. This is sick."



**The Racial Justice Group meets at
House of Hope the first Thursday
of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Come check out a meeting, or
contact Ben Allen if you have questions.**



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

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)



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!

August 1 through August 31, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$31,923	\$21,988	\$9,934
Disb.	\$32,506	\$27,477	\$5,029
R less D	\$(583)	\$(5,489)	\$4,905

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

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$255,388	\$245,251	\$10,137
Disb.	\$260,056	\$266,074	\$(6,018)
R less D	\$(4,667)	\$(20,823)	\$16,155

Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices

Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices: Renewing Congregational Imagination is a two-year learning community for congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod. We believe that vital congregations convene space for meaningful life-long faith formation and authentically connect with their neighborhood, trusting that God is already active in the community beyond the church's walls.

This project guides cohorts of congregations (4-5 congregations in each cohort) through a learning process focused on collaborative learning, community support, and developing skills in those practices that sustain our relationship with God (Faith Practices) and those practices that sustain our relationship with our neighbors and our community (Neighboring Practices).

Our aim is to cultivate communities of practice in congregations who can foster a meaningful and authentic space for learning, experimentation, and faith practice. We are focusing especially on core Christian practices like prayer, discernment, and worship and neighboring practices like one-to-ones, storytelling, intercultural development, and asset-based community development.

Over the course of the next two years, House of Hope will embark on a journey of exploration, imagination, and learning. We will ground ourselves in those practices that sustain our relationship with God (Faith Practices) and learn more about those practices that sustain our relationship with our neighborhood and community (Neighboring Practices). We believe that being a part of this process will be impactful, meaningful, and even transformational with God's help and with the commitment of each participant to engage fully and intentionally.

Look for more information to come about our small group cohort and all that we will be learning over the next two years! Hold us in prayer at our first retreat on October 6-7.

(Descriptions of the program come from Minneapolis Area Synod documents of the Faith & Neighboring Practices)

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

For Your Information:

Below is a summary of some of the items that were discussed during the Ministry Teams and Leadership Team meetings on September 12th:

- To save money on postage and printing, we're going to email the Letter of Hope to everyone who has email, and mail it to those without an email address. We understand that some people who receive the Letter of Hope by e-mail prefer to have it mailed to them. If you would like to have it mailed to you, let Jeannie know.
- New this year: on the 3rd Sunday of every month there will be an intergenerational event with Sunday School kids. On September 17th, the teenagers shared songs they learned at Camp Wapo. Look for an upcoming Sunday to do fleece blankets.
- The Racial Justice Team from House of Hope met with the Racial Justice Team from Valley of Peace. Many of the people from Valley of Peace were on the civil rights tour. The meeting had good energy and we're making plans for the future.
- NEAR and PRISM are thankful for the large number of school supplies they received.
- We have a QR code that leads people to Vanco. This will be displayed on a PowerPoint slide during our service, mostly for people who are watching online and wish to donate.
- Our current phone system is not working well. Voice mail messages don't get recorded, or they show up late. The Leadership Team approved the purchase of a used phone system for approximately \$2,000.
- Our Parish Nurse, Debbie Haney, would like to retire by December 31. Debbie provides valuable services such as planning the Respite and Caregiver Support Program, doing visitations, and providing guidance and advocacy to people who are transitioning to nursing home care. House of Hope and First Lutheran are working together to find a new parish nurse.

LUTEFISK DINNER TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 1!

Mark your calendar for the 40th Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner, Friday, November 3!

Tickets for the 40th Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner go on sale Sunday, October 1.

Cost for each ticket is \$25.00

There are four seating times: 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

Ticket sales are limited to 100 tickets per seating.

Tickets are available Sunday mornings,
or Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the church office.

REMEMBER to volunteer your time and/or
your talents to help make this dinner a **SUCCESS!**

Do you have an announcement for the November newsletter?

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



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

WELCOME, JO ELLEN!

We welcome Jo Ellen Kloehn to House of Hope. Jo Ellen is serving as our organist and choir accompanist, helping George as he continues regaining strength.

Jo Ellen grew up on farms west of Indianapolis, Indiana. After many years of piano study, Jo Ellen began organ study her Junior year of high school with the organ teacher at Indiana Central College. She came to Minnesota to go to college and graduated from Bethel University with a BA in Church Music and Organ Performance.

Her parents are living in heaven now and her one brother lives in the state of Virginia. Jo Ellen has three children and six grandchildren, three of whom are red-headed! Two children (and spouses) and four grandchildren are here in Minneapolis and one daughter and family live in Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to serving as organist, Jo Ellen teaches private piano in her home. She says that her idea of exercise is sitting in a chair and reading a good book.

Happy Birthday!

Oct 3 Darrel Drenth
Oct 3 Mike Johansen
Oct 3 Mae Lou Thompson
Oct 5 Gary Minks
Oct 6 Allison Remple
Oct 8 Kim Larson
Oct 8 Michelle Reger
Oct 9 Jody Bonsen
Oct 10 Colin Anderson
Oct 10 Teraysa Rombalski
Oct 10 Sara Utt
Oct 14 Darrel Hamann
Oct 20 Jenna Henderson
Oct 20 Mark Pilon
Oct 24 Betty Johnson
Oct 28 Tim Wold
Oct 29 Mark Jensen
Oct 29 Randy Wangen
Oct 31 Floyd Olson



**Sunday Worship in the sanctuary
is planned for October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29!**

Happy Anniversary!!

Oct 8 Kaela & Ryan
Halupnick
Oct 14 Christina & Ryan
Montgomery
Oct 29 Chris & Gary Bearl

Prayers of Christian Sympathy...

...to the family of Robert
"Bob" Leonardson.
Bob's funeral was held
September 25,
at House of Hope

WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL...

IN OUR HOUSE OF HOPE COMMUNITY

October Guild Information

Remember, if you are not able to serve on your assigned Sunday, you need to find a replacement. Kindly inform the church office as soon as possible of any changes so it may be accurately reflected in the weekly bulletin.

October 1

Altar	Lynne McGrath
Coffee	Chris & Gary Bearl, Mandy Scott
Greeter	Cheryl Wallenfelt
LiveStream	Sam Wangen
PowerPoint	Rose Wangen
Reader	Marlene Holmquist
Usher	Jim Neus
Worship Asst.	Kaela Halupnick

October 15

Altar	Mary Sundeen
Coffee	Mary & Gil Sundeen, Mandy Scott
Greeter	Jane Griffith
LiveStream	Sam Wangen
PowerPoint	Abby Hansen
Reader	Jane Griffith
Usher	Gil Sundeen
Worship Asst.	Kaela Halupnick

October 8

Altar	Chris Brewster
Coffee	Kris & Ben Allen, Mandy Scott
Greeter	Clarice Sulzbach
LiveStream	Joe Brehmer
PowerPoint	Gary Bearl
Reader	Chris Brewster
Usher	Randy Vescelius
Worship Asst.	Chris Brewster

October 22

Altar	Chris Bearl
Coffee	Becky & Tom Broeckel, Mandy Scott
Greeter	Chris Bearl
LiveStream	Mark Jensen
PowerPoint	Eric Hanson
Reader	Shirley Fulmer
Usher	Ryan Montgomery
Worship Asst.	Chris Brewster

October 29

Altar	Linda Moen
Coffee	Marlene Holmquist, Sharon & Arlen Johnson, Mandy Scott
Greeter	Lynette & Jim Neus
LiveStream	Rose Wangen
PowerPoint	Kara Hansen
Reader	Karen Brehmer
Usher	Steve Nightengale
Worship Asst.	Erin Paulsen





House of Hope Lutheran Church
4800 Boone Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55428

HOUSE OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
4800 Boone Avenue North New Hope, MN 55428
Phone: (763) 533-3341
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, service, and leadership. God loves us unconditionally and we endeavor to be a place where that same hospitality is extended to everyone. Following Christ, we seek racial and social equity with reconciliation among all peoples. We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, 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!