

# November 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,

November is a month where we consider the past, present, and future in our worship and our practices. The first Sunday of the month is All Saints Sunday, a day where we remember those saints of our church and in our lives who have died. We honor them with candles and naming and together hold the promises of God that they are safe in eternal life with our resurrected Lord. It is a season of remembering how God has been present with us throughout history.

We give thanks for our present time and God's presence among us. We often take time this month to notice God's beauty in our changing seasons, to gather around tables of plenty with loved ones, and to give thanks for all that we have in life. It is a season of gratitude for what is.

We also look to the future and where God is leading us. Each year, we have our annual stewardship drive where we look to our hopes for the year to come and cheerfully give as we are able. We plan programs and events for the coming year, and we dream about what we can do out in the world in the years to come.

Additionally, as we give thanks for one another and our community this season, this month we also kick off our capital campaign, "Stories of Hope." With this campaign, we reflect on all the ways that House of Hope has brought hope to each of us as well as out into the community in the past, notice the hope we hold together today, and dream of our future. The prophet Jeremiah shares the word of God with the Israelites saying, "Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). This is a season of seeing how God's grace is working through us at House of Hope and dreaming about how we might continue to cultivate hope in our community in the future!

How are you holding hope this year? What traditions or loved ones of the past are you remembering? For what current events or neighbors are you giving thanks? What are your dreams of the future for yourself or for House of Hope?

Whatever hope you are holding, we know that God is with us and promises us a future of hope. I give thanks for each of you in this season and hold great hopes for the future of the people of House of Hope!

In the love of Christ, Pastor Gretchen



## **SIGN UP NOW TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS**

You are now able to sign up to sponsor altar flowers for 2024.

The sign up sheet and envelopes are by the front door.

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

## **“Stories of Hope” Capital Campaign!**

Last month, you voted to approve a capital campaign in hopes of getting a new parking lot, repairing, and redoing the roof over the office, getting new stoves and ovens in the kitchen, ordering new worship banners and paraments for our sanctuary, and updating the landscaping by the street.

I am excited, and I hope you are too, for what these updates will mean for our church. A new parking lot will allow us to continue hosting Oktoberfest and other outdoor gatherings, not to mention allow us to safely be in the parking lot as we gather in the church building. New stoves and ovens promise many fun gatherings like Lutefisk or the Midsummer Gathering for EveryMeal! New worship banners and paraments will enliven our worship space and help us to connect to God and one another in worship. Just as our current banners were made specifically for our space and congregation, we'll be working with an artist to commission pieces that will fit our space and community today! Landscaping by the road will help us to live out our welcome to our neighbors and visitors. And, updating the office roof will help us in the office to continue the work of our ministry in the House of Hope building! I love how these priorities live out our House of Hope values, continuing to share our “Stories of Hope” in our community!

Over the next few weeks, you'll be receiving weekly video devotionals in your inbox as we consider the “Stories of Hope” that God has already told through people in the Bible- Abraham, Esther, Jesus, the disciples, and the Woman at the Well. In worship, we'll hear from members of our congregation and our community about their “story of hope” in this place through this ministry. You, too, are invited to share your “story of hope”: in the narthex, outside of the office, you are invited to write up your own story of hope- how you have felt hope here at House of Hope or how you have shared hope through our House of Hope ministry with someone else. Please take time to read through others' stories and to share your own!

In early November, you'll be receiving instructions from the Capital Campaign Team and Stewardship Team, along with a pledge card with places to designate your annual stewardship giving (a way that we steward our money as a spiritual practice), as well as a place to designate a specific capital campaign gift over the next three years to go to these capital projects. I encourage you to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to share and give this year and for this campaign as we look for ways to continue to share God's “Story of Hope” in this place!

---

*Psalm 9:1, "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.*

**A prayer for Thanksgiving:** "God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we might honor your love and share your light in our community, around our own tables, today and always. Amen."

**Happy Thanksgiving from House of Hope Lutheran Church!**



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

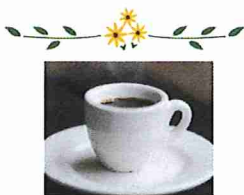
### **Music Director's Notes**

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 The Beatitudes by Karle Erickson. Sunday, November 12, Hope Bells will ring Triumphant! by Michael Joy; November 19, the Hope Chorale will sing One Faith, One Hope, One Lord by Craig Courtney. Sunday, November 26, we observe the First Sunday of Advent as we begin a new church year and the Hope Chorale will sing Advent Carol by David Angerman, Michael Barrett, and Joseph M. Martin.

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



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



**Looking Ahead:  
Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Eve Services  
Sunday, December 24  
10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.**

**(No coffee hour on Christmas Eve)  
No Services on Christmas Day**

### **Bible Study**

Have you been wanting to read the Bible with others?  
Have you been thinking of coming to Bible Study?  
Have you been wishing you knew more about your faith?  
Join us in the Fellowship Hall at **11:00 a.m. Thursdays**, for an hour as we explore the Bible together. Bring a Bible, or borrow one at church. **All are welcome!**

### **Read Along with the Lectionary**

Nov 5: Time after Pentecost. All Saints Sunday  
Gospel Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Nov 12: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 32  
Gospel Matthew 25:1-13, Psalm 70

Nov 19: Time after Pentecost. Lectionary 33  
Gospel Matthew 25:14-30, Psalm 90:1-12

Nov 26: First Sunday of Advent.  
Gospel Mark 13:24-37, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

## 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>

### **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!

September 1 through September 30, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$31,923	\$21,139	\$10,784
Disb.	\$32,506	\$41,076	\$(8,569)
R less D	\$(583)	\$(19,936)	\$19,353

YTD January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$287,312	\$266,390	\$20,921
Disb.	\$292,562	\$307,150	\$(14,587)
R less D	\$(5,250)	\$(40,759)	\$35,509

**Thank you for your gifts to:  
NEAR, PRISM, Luther Seminary**

Thank you to all who donated school supplies to NEAR. Supplies were handed out to 302 children (which is a total of 99 households).



**Sunday Worship in the  
sanctuary is planned for  
November 5, 12, 19, & 26!**

No Worship Service on  
Thanksgiving Day



### **News From NEAR**

#### **Christmas Toy Distribution**

Make Christmas brighter for area children, youth, and teens as this popular NEAR event returns to the Crystal Community Center mid-December!

Here is how church members (like you) can help out...

Make donations of toys and gift items for boys or girls, ages birth to 18 (with the largest need from ages 9 to 18). Most needed items and popular items include stuffed animals, gloves (youth/teen sizes), sports balls and gear, electronics, fleece throw blankets, and art kits.

Monetary donations to NEAR for the event are also very helpful as they allow the volunteers to catch the best sales and stretch every dollar!

There will be two different deadlines to get toys to NEAR. The first deadline is November 19th, the second deadline is December 10th. If you have questions, contact Dave Kiser 763-516-2246.



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

## Stewardship Corner:

In this month of November, when we members of House of Hope make our financial pledges for the 2024 budget and the Capital Campaign, let's discuss tithing.

### WHAT IS TITHING?

It's making a voluntary, systematic contribution of financial support to your church. It is voluntary when you are giving out of love and gratitude for all God gives you. It is systematic when you are giving a predetermined portion of your income as you receive it. The Old Testament guideline for giving was a "tithe" - or tenth - of total property. *"All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord."* Leviticus 27:30.

According to the New Testament, Jesus affirmed tithing as a form of stewardship. See Matthew 23:23. The Apostle Paul directed his followers to plan their contributions. *"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn..."* 1 Corinthians 16:2. When a person gives in a voluntary systematic manner, but not at 10%, it is called proportionate or percentage giving. If you are giving at less than 10%, prayerfully consider increasing your giving percentage. Making a plan to increase your giving a little bit each year until you reach 10% can be helpful, if jumping to 10% seems like a big reach right now.

### REASONS TO TITHE

Everything we have comes as a gift from God. To show our faith and thanksgiving, we can return a part of God's gifts to us to help the church carry out its works.

- Tithing is a way of loving. Through giving, we show our love for God and humanity.
- Tithing is a way of growing. It is a challenge that helps us develop self-discipline, responsibility, and maturity.
- Tithing is a way of helping. Tithing supports programs to help those with material and spiritual needs.

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."* 1 Peter 4:10

### MAKE TITHING PART OF YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST

It's an important way to:

- Express your gratitude to God for the gifts and blessings you have received.
- Renew your faith and grow closer to God.
- Help your church remain strong and fulfill its mission.
- Give with a loving, generous heart. God will reward you with joy and fulfillment.

*"The measure you give will be the measure you get back."* Luke 6:38

### COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD - AND THE STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE

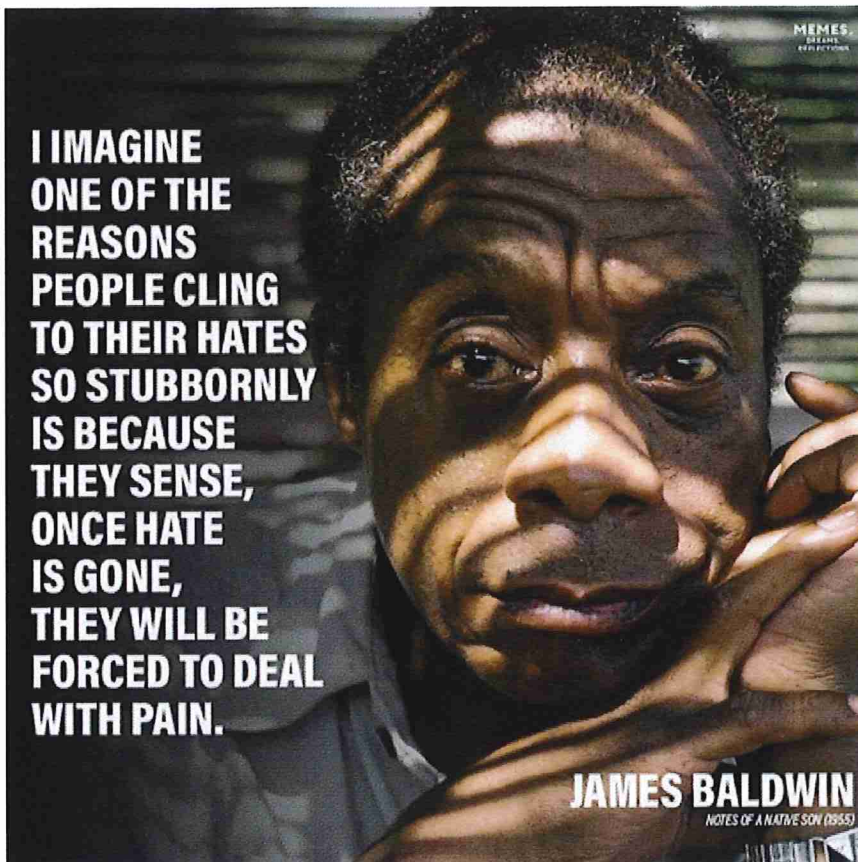
- Give thanks for all your God-given gifts.
- Serve God with your time, talent, and treasure.

*"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:20-21



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

## Racial Justice Group



### CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS

to Sam Wangen, who  
was confirmed  
Sunday, October 29.

May God continue to  
guide you in your  
spiritual journey.

### *Prayers of Christian Sympathy*

to the family and friends of  
Lee Olson,  
who died October 11, 2023.  
Lee's funeral was held at  
House of Hope  
October 25, 2023



### Buy RaiseRight Cards (formerly known as Scrip Cards)



Did you know that when you purchase RaiseRight Cards you are supporting a fundraiser to the general fund for House of Hope? Also known as scrip fundraising, **YOU** help raise money by purchasing and using gift cards to many of your favorite places. Use a gift card purchased here at House of Hope instead of using cash or credit to pay for everyday purchases such as groceries, gas, dining out, or that morning cup of coffee. There are many different cards to purchase, if you don't see the card you're looking for, ask and we'll see if we can order it. The Holidays are just around the corner, stock up on cards now to use as stocking stuffers, as a 'thank you' to a helpful neighbor, or for yourself. Contact Cheryl Wallenfelt if you have questions or would like to purchase cards. You can also purchase cards in the church office Monday - Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**WE SEEK TO BE NEIGHBORS TO ALL...**

**IN OUR HOUSE OF HOPE COMMUNITY**

## November Guild Information

### November 5

**Altar** Kris Allen  
**Coffee** Theresa Henderson,  
Marilyn Eggert, Mandy Scott  
**Greeter** Cheryl Wallenfelt  
**LiveStream** Sam Wangen  
**PowerPoint** Rose Wangen  
**Reader** Marlene Holmquist  
**Usher** Jim Neus  
**Worship Asst.** Kaela Halupnick

### November 19

**Altar** Chris Bearl  
**Coffee** Karen & Joe Brehmer, Mandy Scott  
**Greeter** Paul, Annette, Abby & Kara Hansen  
**LiveStream** Mark Jensen  
**PowerPoint** Christine Beck  
**Reader** Chris Bearl  
**Usher** Paul Hansen  
**Worship Asst.** Chris Brewster

### November 12

**Altar** Lynne McGrath  
**Coffee** Lynne McGrath, Nancy Elliott,  
Mandy Scott  
**Greeter** Marilyn Eggert  
**LiveStream** Sam Wangen  
**PowerPoint** Ryan Halupnick  
**Reader** Marlene Holmquist  
**Usher** Randy Wangen  
**Worship Asst.** Kaela Halupnick

### November 26

**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

## *Happy Birthday!*

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



## *Happy Anniversary!!*

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



# This Month at House of Hope, November 2023

(Note: This calendar is subject to change.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
**Communion is served each Sunday			1	2	3	4
				9am SJMC 11am Bible Study 7pm Racial Justice Group Meeting	<b>LUTEFISK DINNER!</b>	2pm Reed Fowler Ordination
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour 11am Conf. Mentor Mtg. 11am Sunday School	7pm Hope Bells 7pm Boy Scouts Executive Committee Mtg	10am Caregiver Support Group 10am Respite Care 7pm Faith in MN	7pm Hope Chorale	9am SJMC 11am Bible Study	Meals on Wheels	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour 11am Conf. Class 11am Sunday School	9:30am Library Day 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Hope Bells	9am Quilting 7pm Leadership & Ministry Team Mtg	1pm NEAR meeting in the F.H. 7pm Hope Chorale	9am SJMC 11am Bible Study		
19	20	21	22	23 – Thanksgiving	24	25
10am Worship** 11am Celebration Brunch 11am Conf. Class 11am Sunday School (Intergenerational in F.H.)	7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Hope Bells	10am Caregiver Support Group 10am Respite Care	7pm Hope Chorale	<b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>	
26 – First Sunday in Advent	27	28	29	30		
10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour <b>No S.S. or Conf. Classes</b>	7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Hope Bells	Meals on Wheels 9am Quilting	7pm Hope Chorale	9am SJMC 9am Kitchen Krew 11am Bible Study		



## 18. Tithes and Offerings

### Tithes

The Melchizedek, king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram [Abraham], saying “

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

And blessed be God Most High,  
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:18-20 NIV)

Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God. (Exodus 23:19; 34:26 NIV)

Honor the Lord with thy substance and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So that thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9-10 KJV)

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3:10 KJV)

### Offerings

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:6-7 NIV)

S C H D Y L G N I R A P S F G  
P E W O E V I G Q S T R I N W  
O H I I U V P O D S E L I S E  
U E W M N S G K E V L H F U S  
R I T M E D E B I E T Z Y B U  
Y N V M E N O G D Y Q X I S O  
O C B P Q L E W R K I N G T H  
U R O O M D C E B H I G H A E  
O E E E H T V H O R E E V N R  
U A W T S E J T I Y I H Z C O  
T S N E A G N O I Z T N T E T  
Q E I B T V T S O M E N G I S  
T R R L U F R E E H C D E S T  
P A F I R S T F R U I T E L S  
M G E N E R O U S L Y S J K P

Copyright © GIL PUBLICATIONS 2004

## 18. Tithes and Offerings

ABRAM	GIVE	POUR-YOU-OUT
BEST	GIVER	PRIEST
BRING	HIGH	ROOM
CHEERFUL	HOUSE	SPARINGLY
ENEMIES	INCREASE	STOREHOUSE
EVERYTHING	KING	SUBSTANCE
FILLED	MELCHIZEDEK	TENTH
FIRST-FRUIT	MOST	TITHE
GENEROUSLY	PLENTY	WINDOW



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](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, 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!