

February 2024 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,

Each year on Ash Wednesday, we remember our mortality as we hear the words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” We remember our belovedness in Christ that promises to hold us in death and everlasting life as ashes are marked on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. We remember our creation in God and the promise of God to walk with us in life.

As we begin the Holy Season of Lent, we look for ways to align our life more closely with God’s through prayer, generosity of giving, self-examination and repentance, and works of love. This year, we think especially of the ways that our love in God allows us to love others more fully since Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day, February 14th.

1 Corinthians 13 reads, *“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”*

Certainly, we can read this as a description of God’s great love for us and all creation, shown most fully in the cross and resurrection of Christ. In Lent, we might add in practices that help us to notice God’s love for us more fully. We might take a break from things that tend to take our attention away from God’s love for us. We also attempt to shift our love for those around us to this ideal love described in First Corinthians.

No matter how we mark this holy season, we know that as we walk with Christ to and through the cross, Christ walks with us every day of our lives.

Blessings on your Lenten Season,

Pastor Gretchen



Bible Study

Have you been wanting to read the Bible with others?

Have you been missing Bible Study in person?

Have you been wishing you knew more about your faith?

Join us 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!

LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE... IN WORSHIP

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>

Or scan this QR Code:



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

House of Hope Book Club

The newly formed House of Hope Book Club met for the first time January 8. We had a good turn out, thank you to those who joined us. The first book we are reading for February 5 is *Beyond that, the Sea* by author Laura Asche-Spencer. The next book club meeting will be Monday, February 5, 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Questions, contact Roberta Etherington

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!

December 1 through December 30, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$31,923	\$126,271	\$(94,348)
Disb.	\$32,506	\$60,365	\$(27,858)
R less D	\$(583)	\$65,906	\$(66,489)

YTD January 1, 2023 through December 30, 2023

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$383,083	\$471,980	\$(88,897)
Disb.	\$390,083	\$435,074	\$(44,991)
R less D	\$(7,000)	\$36,906	\$(43,906)



**Join us at 10:00 am for Sunday
worship in the sanctuary
February 4, 11, 18, 25!**

Read Along with the Lectionary

- Feb 4: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. Lectionary 5
Gospel Mark 1:29-39, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- Feb 11: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany. Lectionary 6
Gospel Mark 9:2-9, Psalm 50:1-6
- Feb 18: First Sunday in Lent
Gospel Mark 1:9-15, Psalm 25:1-10
- Feb 25: Second Sunday in Lent
Gospel Mark 8:31-38, Psalm 22:23-31

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

Stewardship Corner:

Stewardship of God's Story

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they [Mary and Joseph] brought him [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Luke 2:22

In the Christian church, Sunday is the basic festival, the weekly festival of the resurrection of Jesus. In the ELCA, we also celebrate principal festivals such as Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Pentecost. We also have “lesser festivals” which celebrate, among other things, events in the life of Christ. On February 2, the lesser festival of The Presentation of Our Lord is observed. The Biblical reference for this lesser festival is in Luke 2:22-40. The law of Moses states that each first-born baby boy belongs to the Lord. So, 40 days after Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord.

At this time, there was a man named Simeon in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. The Spirit guided Simeon to the temple the day that Jesus was presented to the Lord. *“Simeon took him [Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”* Luke 2:28-32. Simeon is declaring what God has done and is testifying to this.

There was also a prophet named Anna in the temple that day. *“She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.”* Luke 2:37b-38. Anna also declares what God is doing. She shares the news and tells the story.

How are we stewarding God's story? We might share some about what we have seen God doing in our lives or in the life of House of Hope. We could share how God is showing up yet again in unexpected ways. We are all a part of God's ongoing story and God has entrusted it to us to share. May we be as joyful and grateful as Simeon and Anna are in sharing this good news.

ASH Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is
Wednesday, February 14
(it's also Valentine's Day!)
House of Hope will have two services
that day at noon and 7:00 p.m.
Join us in person or online.

New Books in the Library

The library has 4 books from The Journals of Corrie Belle (there are a total of 8 books in this series). The books available from this series that is in the library now are *My Father's World*, *A Place in the Sun*, *On the Trail of the Truth*, and *Daughter of Grace*. Come check out these new books, and everything else our library has to offer!

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

A Message from our Music Director

February — this month we begin the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday is February 14). The text of our feature hymn for this month carries us through the journey of Lent. The Hymn, *As the Winter Days Grow Longer*, is from the ELCA's supplemental hymnal, *All Creation Sings*:

As the winter days grow longer, drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime, shine within our world anew!

As the vines burst into blossom, fragrant in the morning air
lifting spirits with their sweetness, luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather, seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime, bloom within our hearts again!

As we journey through this season, pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence; guide us with your loving hand.
Wandering people here we gather, called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime, grant us sabbath joy this day!

This hymn text was written by the American author Mary Louise Bringel (b. 1953). The text is paired with the delightful Welsh tune *Suo Gan*. The title *Suo Gan* means, simply, *Lullaby* and its original Welsh text is a lullaby. This was the song sung during the opening scenes of the movie *Empire of the Sun* (1987). Since then this gentle tune has been paired with several hymn texts.

During February, and the season of Lent, our music groups will be singing/ringing the following selections: Sunday, February 4, Hope Chorale will sing *Let Me Listen* by Dan Forrest; Sunday, February 11, you will hear *As the Showers Water the Earth* by David Sims sung by the Hope Chorale; Ash Wednesday, February 14, Hope Chorale will sing *Create in Me a Clean Heart* by Ben Allen; February 18, the First Sunday in Lent, Hope Chorale will sing *A Lenten Journey* by Hal Hopson; Sunday February 25, you will hear the African American spiritual *Travelin' Man* arranged by Uzee Brown.

So as we make our way through February with each day growing longer, we are sustained by God who blesses earth with springtime.

Stay warm, stay safe, stay healthy!!
George

Love



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



Wildfire Every Meal
“Marty” Gras Fundraiser
Saturday, February 10, 2024
Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Holy Nativity Lutheran Church
3900 Winnetka Ave., N. New Hope

“Marty” Gras Fundraiser for Wildfire Every Meal

providing weekend meals for kiddos at Forest, Lakeview, and Meadow Lake Schools

Saturday, February 10th! 12 noon to 3PM

PIZZA, Soda, and Popcorn for only \$10
BINGO (Pack of 10 Games/3 grids each) \$20 PRIZES!
HEADS or TAILS Bead Games \$1 per strand of beads
Plus a BAKE SALE!

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church 3900 Winnetka Ave N, New Hope, MN

Accepting cash, checks, and credit/debit cards



American Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, February 29
Faith Lilac Way Fellowship Hall

Schedule an appointment to give the gift of life at:
<https://www.redcrossbloor.org/give.html/find-drive>



There will be a community meal and fundraiser to benefit PRISM and NEAR Food Shelves through an effort of volunteers and local businesses.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Cooper High School

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

To sponsor, donate, or volunteer

www.facebook.com/EmptyBowlsRAS

<https://ced.rdale.org/community/empty-bowls>

Freedom Riders at Youth Performance Center

This YPC original play is in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project.

In the summer of 1964, a group of mostly white college students from the north headed to the Deep South to help register new voters: not fully aware of the hate and violence that they and the families they were hoping to help, would face. Travel back on this poignant and eye-opening journey to witness the power of unity resilience, and the unwavering fight for civil rights, and to meet the brave students who earned their place in history as the Freedom Riders.

Feb 2 - Feb 18, 2024 at Howard Conn Theatre venue, 1900 Nicollet Ave, Mpls
This performance is appropriate for middle school ages - adult.

Group tickets for weekend shows are \$12.00 each

Contact Kris Allen with questions.

763-202-5139 or

kristinmarieallen@gmail.com

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



Ethnic Studies to be Part of MN Social Studies Curriculum!

Beginning in 2026, Minnesota's social studies standards in grades K-12 will include ethnic studies. This is a huge win for proponents of ethnic studies, who have been organizing long and hard for years.

Before the standards goes into effect, there is a small change that needs to first be approved by the Minnesota Department of Education. The following article from the Sahan Journal offers a deeper dive into the ruling and the struggle it has taken to have achieved this incredibly important accomplishment.

MIL GRACIAS for all you have organized, testified, written letters, called their representatives, shown up, talked about it at the kitchen table and with folks in community. This is because of you and your efforts, skills, perseverance y corazón.

To read more about this go to
<https://sahanjournal.com>



Prayers of Christian Sympathy to the family of Jeannie Johnson.

Jeannie has been our wonderful office administrator for the last two years. She died suddenly last week and will be greatly missed by our House of Hope community, as well as all who knew and loved her. We hold her family, especially her husband, Brad, and her son, Nick, in our prayers.

Her funeral will be held at 12:00 noon on Friday, February 9th with visitation before at 10:00am and lunch to follow.

We ask for prayers for our office staff and Leadership Team who worked closely with Jeannie. Please bear with us as we mourn our colleague and figure out next steps for our office.

You may reach out to Pastor Gretchen with any pastoral concerns or needs at 952 221 2939.

Did You Know...

Many things are happening the month of February, including:

Black History Month, National Cancer Prevention Month, American Heart Month, Low Vision Awareness Month, Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month, National Bird Feeding Month





Take a journey with the National Lutheran Choir before we depart for our tour to the Carolinas!

Join us to hear the program we'll be taking to North and South Carolina, which explores the intersectionality of our life journeys with works from the Lutheran choral tradition and stories of immigrants, refugees, and enslaved Africans.

4:00pm
February 25th
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church,
Plymouth MN

Adults \$35
Youth under 18 are free
Students (with valid ID)
Pay what you can

Tickets available at
NCLA.com

- Feb 1 Jordan Dexter
- Feb 3 Della Anderson
- Feb 4 Zane Anderson
- Feb 7 Lynne McGrath
- Feb 8 Kris Allen
- Feb 9 Kara Hansen
- Feb 9 Debbie Trombley
- Feb 10 Stephanie Bensen
- Feb 11 Burt Gran
- Feb 13 Jonathan Ellis
- Feb 15 Janna Ellis
- Feb 19 Dalyn Beske
- Feb 19 Marlene Holmquist
- Feb 20 Tayler Kukachka
- Feb 21 Barbara Ibister
- Feb 21 Abigail Sundeen
- Feb 21 Charles Wittmer
- Feb 25 Gary Wittmer
- Feb 28 Harley Wanous
- Feb 28 Carolyn Wuollet



Feb 15
BJ & Ella Mae Bjorkman



Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed?
Contact Jeannie in the church office to get added!
763-533-3341
office@hohlc.org

Altar Flowers

There are still many Sundays available to sponsor Altar Flowers. Sign up today, it's easy! Sign up sheet is next to the north sanctuary door.



February Guild Information

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Altar - Lynne McGrath
Coffee Server(s)- Mary & Gil Sundeen, Mandy Scott
Greeter - Chris Bearl
LiveStream - Joe Brehmer
PowerPoint - Sophie Wangen
Reader - Marlene Holmquist
Usher - Randy Wangen
Worship Asst. - Chris Brewster

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Altar - Chris Bearl
Coffee Server(s)- Becky & Tom Broeckel, Mandy Scott
Greeter - Gary Bearl
LiveStream - Sam Wangen
PowerPoint - Christine Beck
Reader - Chris Brewster
Usher - Paul Hansen
Worship Asst. - Erin Paulsen

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Altar - Chris Brewster
Coffee Server(s)- Pat Kukachka, Sharon &
Arlen Johnson, and Mandy Scott
Greeter - Marilyn Eggert
LiveStream - Rose Wangen
PowerPoint - Desi Lotzer
Reader - Shirley Fulmer
Usher - Gary Bearl
Worship Asst. - Chris Brewster

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Altar - Linda Moen
Coffee Server(s)- Marilyn Eggert, Theresa Henderson,
and Mandy Scott
Greeter - Paul, Annette, Abby, and Kara Hansen
LiveStream - Sam Wangen
PowerPoint - Rose Wangen
Reader - Jane Griffith
Usher - Tom Broeckel
Worship Asst. - Erin Paulsen

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - Noon

Altar - Mary Sundeen
Greeter -
LiveStream - no livestream at noon, only 7pm
PowerPoint - Karen Brehmer
Reader - Chris Bearl
Usher -
Worship Asst. - Chris Bearl

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Altar - Mary Sundeen
Greeter -
LiveStream - Joe Brehmer
PowerPoint -
Reader - Karen Brehmer
Usher -
Worship Asst. - Kaela Halupnick



Supper During Lent

Wednesdays during Lent, at 6:00 p.m.,
supper will be served in the
Fellowship Hall before worship.
Different groups have volunteered to
make and serve supper.
There is nothing better than having a
delicious supper, fellowship with our
friends, and then worship together.
See you during Lent!

Do you have an announcement for the March newsletter?

Email Jeannie Johnson at office@hohlc.org or leave your
announcement in her office mailbox before February 22, 2024.



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!

Church Staff

The Reverend Gretchen Rode, Senior Pastor	grode@hohlc.org
Deacon George Brooke, Director of Music	gbrooke@hohlc.org
Jeannie Johnson, Office Administrator	office@hohlc.org
Debbie Haney, Parish Nurse	612-408-2049

Join us every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
for worship, and stay for fellowship!