

March 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,

On Valentine's Day, we began our journey of Lent with a reading from the book of Acts and the reminder that Jesus calls us saying, "you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). In the season of Lent, especially, we are tasked with witnessing to God, that is, noticing the ways that God is present in our lives, in our neighbors, and in our world.

To aid us in these witnesses, we mark this season of Lent. Perhaps in this season of Lent, you have taken on a practice: reading the Bible daily or a new prayer walk or writing a card to a loved one- to notice, to witness where God is present that you maybe haven't spent time looking for before. Perhaps in this Lent, you've given something up- taking out chocolate or Facebook or meat on Fridays- to notice, to witness to the ways God shows up to fill the gaps. We, as a church, have taken on the practice of meeting additionally each Wednesday to eat together and worship, to witness to one another and to the ways that God is working here at House of Hope. (If you haven't joined us yet, why not try this Wednesday?)

Whether or not you've taken on a new practice this Lent, we are all invited to witness to God in this time and place. What is God doing in you? What is God doing in those around you? How is God active in our community?

As we notice God's work in us and around us, we remember the journey that Jesus took to the cross, through death, and into resurrection. At the end of March, we'll remember Jesus' last supper on Maundy Thursday, his trial and crucifixion on Good Friday, and his triumphant defeat of death in resurrection on Easter Sunday. As we walk this journey alongside Jesus through our Bible readings, you, too, are invited to notice the ways that Jesus walks with you in your life- in seasons of death and in invitations to new life. We know that our death and resurrection are tied to Jesus' and we give thanks for the grace filled love of God that accompanies us on our journey.

Blessings on your Lent and hope to see you in the celebration of Easter at the end of the month!

Pastor Gretchen

LIVING OUT GOD'S GRACE... IN WORSHIP

Midweek Lenten Worship- Altered by the Spirit

Lent is often a time of self-reflection, spiritual discipline, commitment, and community. Congregations gather to sing the minor harmonies of the way of Jesus on the road toward the cross. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, in each of our 5 midweek services, different Wildfire pastors will be with us at House of Hope to preach on the various works of the Spirit from the Book of Acts. As we walk together in this Season of Lent, we'll see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us.

We'll look to catch up with the work of the Holy Spirit, finding ourselves:



Altered in witness (Acts 1:6-11) on Ash Wednesday

Altered through God's Creativity (Acts 2:1-13)
with Pastor Colin of First Lutheran on February 21

Altered on the Edge of Belonging (Acts 8:26-40)
with Pastor Jason of Holy Nativity on February 28

Altered by Disruption (Acts 10:1-16, 34-35, 44-47)
with Vicar Karen of Faith Lilac Way on March 6

Altered through Stories We Don't Trust (Acts 12:6-17)
with Pastor Pam of Faith Lilac Way on March 13

Altered Alongside our Enemies (Acts 9:1-22)
with Pastor Gretchen on March 20

We know that the Spirit is alive in, with, and under our ordinary lives, always calling us forward into transformation, nudging us into wholeness, and beckoning us forth into an alternative Way.

Let's look for Her work together this Lent! (Resources from Church Anew).

Join us for Midweek Worship on Wednesdays at 7:00pm, with supper beforehand at 6:00pm.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, March 24

10:00 a.m. Worship with Processional of Palms & Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29

12 noon & 7:00 p.m. Worship

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31

10:00 a.m. Festival Service with Communion

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

A Message from our Music Director

Lent — a journey. A journey which we began Ash Wednesday and continues through the forty days of Lent through the Passion of Holy Week to the rejoicing of the Resurrection! The hymn writer Sylvia Dunstan says (ELW 326):

*Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.*

During March the special music for our worship services encompasses the depths of our Lenten journey to the trials and passion of Holy Week to the triumph of the Resurrection. You will hear our music ensembles ringing and singing these pieces to enhance our worship together:

Sunday, March 3, Hope Chorale will sing *By the Babylonian Rivers* by Richard Erickson;

Sunday, March 10, you will hear the Hope Chorale sing *God So Loved the World* by Wayne L. Wold;

Sunday, March 17, Hope Bells will ring *Introspection* by Jason W. Krug;

March 24, Palm Sunday, the Hope Chorale will sing *Hosanna!* by Craig Courtney.

Maundy Thursday, Hope Bells will ring *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* by Jason W. Krug.

Good Friday, Hope Chorale will sing *Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs* by Karl Heinrich Graun.

For our festive celebration of the Resurrection the Hope Chorale will sing *Day of All Days!* by Russell Nagy and the Hope Bells will ring *Thine Be the Glory* by Jason W Krug.

George



**Join us at 10:00 am for Sunday
worship in the sanctuary
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31!**



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

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

Stewardship Corner:

Stewardship of Encouragement

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds” Hebrews 10:24

Proverbs 27:17 teaches that “Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another.” As believers meet in fellowship, we are meant to encourage and sharpen the wits of one another. (Usually the word “provoke” is used in a negative sense, but in Hebrews 10:24 it is used positively, as encouragement, stirring up, and prodding and pushing.) There are lots of instances of encouragement to love and to do good deeds at House of Hope. We invite others to Quilting, Every Meal, Respite, and a host of other activities to help our neighbors. We ask House of Hoppers to pray for those on the prayer list and we welcome members to Racial Justice meetings and Bible studies to learn how to better love our neighbors.

We are pretty good at provoking each other to get involved in acts of love and good deeds. One important act of love that we don't often encourage each other about is giving. Yes, we have our fall Stewardship Program where we urge the entire congregation to increase their giving and we regularly ask the congregation to give to specific causes. But how often do we have conversations in which we talk about our own giving or encourage a fellow member about their giving? We are quite uncomfortable having these discussions.

That's okay. In our culture, we share personal financial information with very few people. Also, note Matthew 6:2, which states, “*So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.*” So we should be careful to avoid pride. But Jesus also said, “*..., let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*” Matthew 5:16.

As you are all aware, we have a shortfall in our budget this year that needs to be made up during 2024. This is an opportunity for anyone (and everyone) at House of Hope “to provoke one another to love and good deeds” by telling your story about how you (and your family) have helped or will be helping to make up the shortfall. We are looking for volunteers to do a short talk during worship describing their plan for extra giving to House of Hope this year. There is no need to discuss amounts, only ideas. For example, Paul Hansen described at the February Ministry Teams meeting that his family is going to cut back on trips to Starbucks and use the saved money toward the shortfall.

So let your light shine and give glory to your Father in heaven by encouraging us House of Hoppers to consider your idea for freeing up some of your money to give to House of Hope this year to cover the shortfall.

If you are willing to share a small part of your story of giving at House of Hope or a new idea you are using to increase your giving, please contact Pastor Gretchen or any member of the Stewardship Ministry Team –

Chris Bearl, Gil Sundeen and Jim Neus.

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

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:



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!

House of Hope Book Club

March 4 at 1:00 p.m. will be the third meeting of the newly formed book club. The book **FEVER** by Mary Beth Keane will be discussed. A review of **FEVER** by Minneapolis Star Tribune critic, Bridgete Frase, says the book is “fluent and confident....Even if you aren’t interested in the medical detective story, you’ll enjoy the rich portrayal of work and class divisions at the turn of the twentieth century.”

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!

January 1 through January 31, 2024

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Receipts	\$29,243	\$96,465	\$(67,221)
Disb.	\$29,077	\$32,902	\$(3,825)
R less D	\$167	\$63,562	\$(63,396)

YTD January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024
(Same as above)

Read Along with the Lectionary

Mar 3: Third Sunday in Lent

Gospel John 2:13-22, Psalm 19

Mar 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gospel John 3:14-21, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Mar 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Gospel: John 12:20-33, Psalm 51:11-12

Mar 24: Psalm Sunday

Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47, Psalm 31:9-6

Mar 31: Easter Sunday

Gospel Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24



Butter Braids are Back!

The House of Hope Youth are once again selling Butter Braids. This Youth Fundraiser will be running from February 25 through March 10. You can order at a table in the narthex after church on March 3 or 10.

Products will be delivered to the church and can be picked up after church on Sunday, March 24 or arrangements can be made to deliver locally. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Wangen.

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

Racial Justice Group



Hoćokata Ti tour scheduled for April 6

The Racial Justice teams of House of Hope and Valley of Peace have scheduled a field trip to Mdewakanton: Dwellers of Spirit Lake on Saturday, April 6, at 10:30 a.m. The 3,805-square-foot exhibit is a historical timeline shared through the eyes of the Mdewakanton Dakota people via storytelling, artifacts, and historical artifacts shared to enhance visitors' knowledge and understanding of Minnesota history and Native American culture.

The exhibit is at Hoćokata Ti (ho-cho-ka-tah-tee), the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's cultural central and gathering space that is used to interpret and encourage traditional Mdewakanton Dakota cultural heritage, language, and history.

The one-hour tour can accommodate up to 75 people. The cost is: General 18+ - \$8.00, Child 5 and Under - FREE, Student K-12, post-secondary, or homeschool groups - \$5.00, Seniors Ages 65+ - \$5.00. Admission fee can be paid upon arrival. Free wheelchairs are provided upon request.

To register, contact Ben Allen by March 19th at 763-242-3311 or Bgallen@carleton.edu. We are also gauging interest in a catered box lunch for \$15 per person following the tour. Please contact Ben Allen for more information and to reserve your spot.

Hoćokata Ti is located at 2300 Tiwahe Circle in Shakopee. For more information, visit hocokatati.org.



ISAIAH is a multi-racial, state-wide nonpartisan coalition of faith communities working for racial and economic justice in Minnesota. Isaiah is focused on working with our 7 elected Hennepin County commissioners to fund 1) permanently affordable housing, 2) Climate Action specifically to weatherize and decarbonize every home and business, 3) programs for youth, especially in our lowest income communities. The commissioners determine a 2.7-billion-dollar yearly budget.

House of Hope is in Hennepin County. District 1 which includes New Hope, Crystal, Robbinsdale, Brooklyn Center, and Brooklyn Park. Our commissioner is Jeff Lunde. House of Hope, 4800 Boone Ave N., New Hope is hosting an Isaiah meeting with Commissioner Lunde Saturday March 23rd 10am-11:30am. Please, Join us to meet him and kick off efforts to win these important investments in our community this year.

Sign up and reach out with questions to Kris Allen at Kristinemarieallen@gmail.com or 763-202-5139.



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

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W E L C O M E



House of Hope is very happy to welcome our new parish nurse, Ruth Peterson. She will be serving as parish nurse for both First Lutheran of Crystal and House of Hope.

Ruth is an RN and DPM with degrees from the College of St. Scholastica and the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. Ruth, a Wisconsin native, and a die-hard Packers fan is, married to Jon, a Vikings fan, and has identical 24-year-old twin daughters, Danielle and Madeline. Ruth has resided in Watertown, MN for the past 20 years. She previously served as a parish nurse in Watertown at Immaculate Conception Church and has been tutoring nursing students online for 10 years.

Ruth is excited to start her role at First Lutheran and House of Hope, and she looks forward to meeting the congregation members. Please introduce yourself to Ruth in the upcoming weeks/months. She will have weekly office hours and is available for home and hospital visits.

Beautiful Quilting Gift

Pictured are the filled cupboards of fabric that are another gift from Jan Mac Gibbon, a lady that is no longer able to pursue her hobby of quilting. She did give us equally that amount of fabric last year. Our quilters group, here at church, are the benefactors of this gift as well as those who will receive these lovely fabrics in the form of finished quilts and or lap robes.

Thank you Jan!



Gertens Spring Plant Sale. House of Hope Youth Fundraiser – 2024

It's that time of year again! It's time for the Gertens Plant Sale Fundraiser to support our youth. The House of Hope youth program earns 30% on plant sales, and 15% on plant card sales. You'll find more information on a table in the narthex. Also look for an email with information on how to order.

The orders are placed online. If you have any questions, or you want Karen to place your order for you, contact Karen Brehmer at 612-799-7069, or Karen.Brehmer@comcast.net.

The last day to order is March 28, by 10:00 pm. Please order early because some plants may sell out before March 28. Pick up your plants at House of Hope on Saturday, May 11, at 5:00 pm. (The day before Mother's Day.)

Thank you for your support of our Youth!



During the March 2024 Minnesota Food Share Campaign, House of Hope will be collecting food and funds for PRISM and NEAR. Please see the posters and lists on the donation table in the Narthex.



 **Minneapolis Trombone Choir**

The Minneapolis Trombone Choir will be giving their 49th annual concert on March 10 at 3:00 p.m. at Judson Memorial Baptist Church, located at 4101 Harriet Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Music varieties range from classical to jazz. Suggested donations of \$20 and under the age of 18 are free.



- Mar 1 Addison Zirbes
- Mar 2 Daisy Haney
- Mar 6 Dorothy Carpenter
- Mar 6 Erin Paulsen
- Mar 7 Chase Smith
- Mar 8 Deb Mans
- Mar 8 Tom McGrath
- Mar 9 Theodora Haney
- Mar 13 Taylor Smith
- Mar 17 Patty Remple
- Mar 20 Ashley Anderson
- Mar 20 George Zirbes
- Mar 21 Jill Jensen
- Mar 22 Barb Drenth
- Mar 24 Landen Kukachka
- Mar 25 Karen Brehmer
- Mar 26 Celeste Gonzalez
- Mar 30 Virginia Hansing



Mar 10
Orv and Betty Johnson

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

Many Thanks

Thank you all for keeping our son Erik in your prayers. A year and a half ago he was diagnosed with a rare disease. It is estimated that fewer than two cases per one million people are diagnosed with Good Pasture Syndrome, also called Anti-GBM disease. I wanted to share a little bit about this disease. It is an autoimmune disease where the body mistakenly makes antibodies that affect the lungs and kidneys. In his case, it was the kidneys that were affected. He was treated immediately for the condition and will need to be monitored. Currently, it is every 6 months. Since he has stabilized, we have asked that he be removed from the prayer chain, however, please continue to keep him in your prayers. ~ Arne and Carolyn Larson and family

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**Prayers of Christian Sympathy
for the families of Ray Henderson
and Shirley Hahn who both
passed away in February 2024.**
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CELEBRATE!

House of Hope thanks Debbie Haney, our Parish Nurse, for her 14 years of compassionate care and leadership in promoting health and wellness in our community. Join us as we celebrate Debbie on Sunday, March 25th (Palm Sunday!), following the service in Fellowship Hall. We have been blessed with Debbie's gifts and are happy that she will continue working with the Respite Care Program.

March Guild Information

Sunday, March 3 2024

Altar - Kris Allen
Coffee Server(s)- Lynne Mc Grath, Nancy Elliott,
Mandy Scott
Greeter - Marilyn Eggert
LiveStream - Rose Wangen
PowerPoint - Gary Bearl
Reader - Jane Griffith
Usher - Steve Nightengale, Tom & Becky Broeckel
Worship Asst. - Chris Bearl

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Altar - Lynne Mc Grath
Coffee Server(s)- Joe & Karen Brehmer, Mandy Scott
Greeter - Chris Brewster
LiveStream - Sam Wangen
PowerPoint - Karen Brehmer
Reader - Maddie Halupnick
Usher - Nancy Elliott, Tom & Becky Broeckel
Worship Asst. - Kaela Halupnick

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Altar - Chris Bearl
Coffee Server(s)- Gary & Chris Bearl, Mandy Scott
Greeter - Jim & Lynette Neus
LiveStream - Rose Wangen
PowerPoint - Abby Hansen
Reader - Chris Bearl
Usher - Jim Neus, Tom & Becky Broeckel
Worship Asst. - Chris Brewster

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - Palm Sunday

Altar - Chris Brewster
Coffee Server(s)- Ben & Kris Allen, and Mandy Scott
Greeter - Sharon Johnson
LiveStream - Sam Wangen
PowerPoint - Eric Hanson
Reader - Karen Brehmer
Usher - Randy Vescelius, Tom & Becky Broeckel
Worship Asst. - Erin Paulsen

Sunday, March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday

Altar - Linda Moen
Coffee Server(s)- Mary & Gil Sundeen, Mandy Scott
Greeter - Richard & Shirley Fulmer
LiveStream - Joe Brehmer
PowerPoint - Kara Hansen
Reader - Chris Brewster
Usher - Gil Sundeen, Tom & Becky Broeckel
Worship Asst. - Chris Bearl

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

LiveStream - Joe Brehmer
PowerPoint - Christine Beck

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

LiveStream - Joe Brehmer
PowerPoint - Rose Wangen

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

LiveStream - Joe Brehmer
PowerPoint - Karen Brehmer

Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy

Thursday

Altar - Mary Sundeen
Greeter - Jennifer & Celeste Gonzalez
LiveStream - Mark Jensen
PowerPoint - Christine Beck
Reader - Shirley Fulmer
Usher - Tom Broeckel
Worship Asst. - Chris Bearl

Friday, March 29, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday

noon	7:00 p.m.
Greeter - Nancy Elliot	Gary Wittmer
LiveStream - Joe Brehmer	
PowerPoint - Karen Brehmer	Christine Beck
Reader - Jane Griffith	Marlene Holmquist
Usher - Nancy Elliott	Gary Bearl
Worship Asst. - Kaela Halupnick	Chris Brewster

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.



March 2024 HAPPENINGS AT HOUSE OF HOPE

(Note: This calendar is subject to change.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
**Communion is served every Sunday.	Cooper H.S. will be at HOH the week of 3/18 testing (S1, S2, and Youth Room)				1	2
3 10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour 11am Conf. Mentor Mtg 11am Sunday School	4 1pm Book Club 5pm Hope Bells 7pm Boy Scouts Executive Meeting	5 – Presidential Nomination Primary all day in F.H. 10am Caregiver Support 10am Respite Care	6 6pm Supper in F.H. 7pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Hope Chorale	7 9am SJMC 11am Bible Study 7pm Racial Justice Group	8 – Meals on Wheels	9
10 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 11am Sunday School 11am Confirmation	11 9:30am Library Day 5pm Hope Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	12 9am Quilting 7pm Leadership & Team Ministries Meeting	13 6pm Supper in F.H. 7pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Hope Chorale	14 9am SJMC 11am Bible Study	15	16
17 10am Worship** Meet the Parish Nurse, Ruth Peterson 11am Coffee Hour 11am Intergenerational Sunday School / Conf. 1 pm - Isaiah Meeting	18 5pm Hope Bells 7pm Boy Scouts Cooper H.S. Testing	19 10am Caregiver Support 10am Respite Care Cooper H.S. Testing	20 6pm Supper in F.H. 7pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Hope Chorale Cooper H.S. Testing	21 9am SJMC 11am Bible Study Cooper H.S. Testing	22 Cooper H.S. Testing	23
24 – Palm Sunday 10am Worship** 11am Sunday School – Easter Egg Hunt 11am Confirmation	25 5pm Hope Bells 7pm Boy Scouts	26 – Meals on Wheels 9am Quilting	27 7pm Hope Chorale	28 – Maundy Thursday 9am SJMC 11am Bible Study 11am Kitchen Krew 7pm Worship	29 – Good Friday Noon Worship** 7pm Worship** Meals on Wheels	30
31 – Easter 10am Worship** 11am Coffee Hour No S.S / Conf.						

***Do you have an announcement for the April newsletter?
Email the office at office@hohlc.org or leave your
announcement in office mailbox before March 25 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
Office Administrator	office@hohlc.org
Ruth Peterson, Parish Nurse	612-408-2049

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