

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

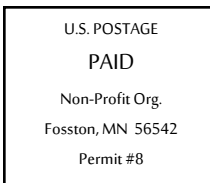
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VBS is Back!

Rocky Railway is coming your way July 19-22. We will begin each evening at 5:30 p.m. with supper and conclude around 8:00p.m. Please call the church office at 435-6765 to register your child, ages Pre-K-6th grade. We look forward to learning how "Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through" this year in VBS. Hope to see you there! Questions, please contact Michelle Olson at 435-6627 or 791-6877.



WHAT'S INSIDE



Our purpose is to glorify God by worshipping, witnessing, teaching, loving and serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tidings of Hope

JULY 2021

pastor's letter from Pastor Jane

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In this busy and scary world, I wish you **Grace and Peace** from God our father and our Lord Jesus Christ. If we listen to the **news, on the national and international level**, we may feel very discouraged. Where is the Grace or Peace?

If we listen to the **weather** report, nationally and locally, we may feel very discouraged. Where is the Grace or Peace?

If we see what **our kids are up against** in the future, we may feel very discouraged. Where is the Grace or Peace?

Jesus says He offers a peace that passes all(human) understanding. Can you think of someone that has that kind of peace? A spiritual mentor who remains calm enough to act and help in the face of tragedy, disaster, or difficulty no matter how large or small?

I had the chance to visit my former Sunday School teacher last weekend who was that mentoring person for me. Mrs. Schmidt is now 97!

Jesus calls us to be like Him. To be His calming presence in the midst of the World. How do we develop grace and Peace that comes naturally? It is never natural. It goes against our first reaction. We start out small and gradually become adept at grace and peace in bigger situations. Make it a habit to think or pray, "Lord, help me to be calm, like Jesus would be in this situation."

We start small, with everyday things as practice helps us improve, like self-discipline in developing muscles for sporting events, vocal chords for singing, dexterity for playing instruments or typing or texting. When we can be Jesus' presence in small things, it prepares us to be gracious and peaceful in the big things.

Paul advises, "Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind"(Romans 12:2) You see, we are all in the process of becoming our best selves. If we aren't doing this we are in the process of being self-indulgent and becoming our worst selves. Make no mistake, we are always "in process" of becoming one or the other.

Grace and Peace is not magically conferred on us. It is a process that is implemented in our everyday lives as we seek Him. "Seek and you will find." (Matthew 7:7). A process that God works in us as we seek Him. This spiritual work of seeking him, actually produces more than grace and peace.

God's work is a process that produces the fruit of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-26)

As Believers, we do not live a Pollyanna lifestyle, but we rejoice that in the midst of the thorns, God provides us with a gracious way of dealing with challenges, and a way of remaining at peace in the midst of a chaotic world.

As God's people, we are constantly becoming someone better today than we were yesterday as we grow in the Lord. This growth is what gives us the coping mechanisms that help us through all that challenges us.

Consequently, it is with joy and thanksgiving that, at the request of some of our members, we restore a new list of daily Bible readings to our newsletter, to assist each of us in this daily process of renewal.

These are the tools, grace and peace, we hope to model, and pass on to our children, our family, and our friends. Become your best self!

Grace and Peace.

Pastor Jane.

Upcoming Events:

Worship Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Outdoor Worship on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in parsonage yard.

Communion July 11th, second Sunday of the month.

Discussion group after church on Sundays @ 10:30 AM.

Bible study, Tuesdays at 1:30 PM

Church Council, Wednesday, July 14th at 7:30 PM

VBS July 19-22, 5:30-8 pm

WOW Gathering-Sept. 18th

LCMC Annual Gathering Mar 4-6, 2022 in Alexandria, MN

Day Trip Retreat, Friday July 23rd (9am—11:30pm)

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-13

To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. —Nelson Mandela

oday, Americans all over the world are waving the flag of the United States of America. Our country is 245 years old! The flag is a symbol of our freedom. But it is not the same flag that the signers of the Declaration of Independence flew on July 4, 1776. When the flag was officially adopted on June 14, 1777 (June 14 is now known as Flag Day), Congress accepted the colors of red, white and blue, not because they had any special meaning, but because they were familiar colors. The flag of Great Britain from whence most of the colonists had emigrated was also of red, white and blue. It was not until the Great Seal of the United States was established five years later (in 1782) that Congress assigned clear meaning to the colors of red, white and blue. Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, explained the symbolism of the colors: "White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valor, and Blue, vigilance, perseverance and justice." This is an impressive set of virtues toward which all patriotic Americans should aspire. But they are not just secular virtues; they are sacred ones as well, because they dovetail with our aspirations as Christians, especially the last three: vigilance, perseverance and justice. Here is a Bible verse about each of these virtues: Vigilance: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8, KJV). Perseverance: "We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4, NIV). Justice: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8). As we wave our flag today to celebrate liberty and freedom, let's remember the meaning of the colors assigned by our country's founders. Even better, rather than just remembering, let's express these virtues every day of our lives. —Timothy Merrill Prayer: O God, we thank you for our freedom. Thank you for those who gave their lives that we might enjoy liberty. Help me today to live out the virtues symbolized in the colors of our flag.

Amen.

Befriender Ministry, a listening presence

It's time to start refreshing our seasoned Befrienders, and training any new recruits who want to be Befrienders. Befrienders is a team of lay people from a faith community (our church) that learn compassionate listening skills, that are transferable to family, friends and colleague relationships. Their skills facilitate spiritual growth by being a nonjudgmental presence. Confidentiality is respected and background checks are required.

The Befriender ministry is a special lay ministry for those who have the heart and the patience, and are able to get around by themselves. It is a way to be sure that as we become less mobile, we find new ways to stay connected to our friends and faith community. To have a visiting friend about once a week, other than their pastor, is a **great blessing** to both parties. If you are a good listener, if you have a heart for God's people and some spare time, please consider becoming trained and commissioned for this important task.

Please prayerfully consider serving as a Befriender, or if you would like to recommend someone who needs a Befriender, please call Pastor Jane at 218-820-2017. Please keep the Befriender Ministry in your prayers.

Worship Wednesdays

We will be having outdoor worship services on Wednesdays, beginning at 6:30 p.m. starting in July (Exact dates will be announced)! We will gather around the campfire in the back/side yard of the parsonage for informal worship with guitar accompaniment by Jacob Malmanger. (Thanks, Jacob)! (Additional musicians always welcome) We could also use a volunteer with a portable CD player to fill in if Jacob can't make it. If you can help in this way, please contact the church office or Bonnie Albright, Kim Kleinwachter, or Cindi Larson of our Worship and Music Committee.

Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Memorials

A gift was given to the Fund in memory of:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| · <u>Cemetery</u> | · <u>Audio/Visual</u> | · <u>Windows</u> |
| · Harland Danielson | · Lucille Dufault | · Lucille Dufault |
| · Russel Aurus | · Craig Burgraff | · Craig Burgraff |
| · Joseph Hovon | · Ed Halvorson | · Ed Halvorson |
| · John Eastlund | | |

Youth News

Happy July Birthday!

- **Alex Hagen**
- **McKayla Hove**
- **Madison Bailie**
- **Benjamin Steinbrenner**



Attention 10th graders:

Please complete your take-home exams and preparing for your interview with your parents and Pastor Jane. Please make your interview appointment by calling with a time that is convenient for you, as soon as possible (not from July 10-16)

JULY SERVANTS

ALTAR GUILD: Anita L

USHERS: David Dahl Brian Larson Samuel Manecke
 Bryan Mesich Matthew Rendahl Patrick Sekely Lowell Veum

HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

July 4 Darin Larson Tia Wickham / Will Christen/ Jake Wickham
July 11 Sid Fjerstad Alexis Bailie / Alex Johnson / Madison Bailie
July 18 Tom Kleinwachter Vanessa Johnson / Ben Steinbrener / Allison Carlin
July 25 Terry Halvorson Breanna Larson / Dawson Bailie / Miley Hove

Consider Electronic Giving

Electronic giving offers convenience for individuals and provides much needed donation consistency for our congregation. As you contemplate future contributions, if you would like more information about electronic giving, contact the church office 218-435-6765, or email hopezion268@gmail.com



DAILY DEVOTIONAL TEXTS: (Pray before reading for understanding and wisdom. Look for connections between passages and how one verse informs another.)

Mark 6:1-13	Ezekiel 2:1-5	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Matt. 13: 23-34
Isaiah 44:6-8	Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25	Mark 6:14-29	Amos 7:7-15
2 Samuel 6:1-19	Psalm 85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jeremiah 23:1-6	2 Samuel 7:1-14
Psalm 23	Ephesians 2:11-22	John 6:1-21

Please keep the following people in your

Dean & Joe Lindberg	Tubby Solsten	Christina Anderson
Tom Sedler	Kate Moore	Christine Johnson
Drew Wahlstrom	Al & Carol Heide	Christopher Vezner
Ilene Sistad	Hazel Trogstad	Craig Larsen
Lois Storey	Carol Marchand	Marian Jenkins
Karen Bolme	David Andree	Janet Olson
Hilma Stadstad	Herbert Prezler	Michael Killian
Elizabeth Barrineau	H. Jeanne Rains	Bill Kuzmaul
Charlie Rose	Oskie & Mary Hanson	Missionaries:
DeEtta Heid	Cathy Albright	Jennifer Albright in Slovenia
Lori Fletcher Schroeder	Gwen Johnson	The Schroeder's in Philippines
Bill & Phllis Malwitz	Michelle Johnson	Simon Haamer in Estonia
Brian Larson	Donald Gwynn & niece Shirley	The Nellermoe's and others in the China Service Ventures
	Greg Gubrud	