

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

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

tidings

JUNE/JULY 2020

pastor's letter from Pastor Jane

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a **journey** we all are on! This unusual experience of ours is what might be called "a unique time of God," similar to the World War I experience. Although this unseen enemy is unique to us, unseen enemies are not unique to history. We have been fighting unseen evil for centuries. Paul lived in very troubled times and advised to be "loving" to our neighbor as Jesus advised.

Then Paul defined what that meant in his letter to the troubled Corinthian church in 1 Cor. 13:1-13. His chapter covers the subject of **Love**. In the original Greek, the word ἀγάπη *agape* is used throughout the "ὁ ύμνος της αγάπης". This is translated into English as "charity" in the King James version. The original text was written in Koine Greek. The "Love Chapter" (used in many weddings) is divided into 13 verses. This chapter of 1 Corinthians is one of many definitional sources for the word *agape* when used to refer to divine love. Introducing his homage to love in 1 Corinthians 12:31, Paul describes **agape** love as "a more excellent way". Excellence is a larger scope, it is not a feeling, but a way of acting interacting, speaking and thinking. Seeing excellence in loving ways also helps to know love when we see it, or don't see it. As we continue to search and think through new and meaningful ways to love each other, we are made aware of many ways people do not love or respect each other. You know what these are in your private experiences.

For **example**: The medical community tells me that to wear a mask is an act of love and respect to protect my neighbor, in case I am unknowingly carrying THE virus. The mask does not protect me, as much as it protects those around me.

The **problem** is I hate the mask, it is very uncomfortable, I put it on, it falls off. I put it back on when I see people and take it off when they are gone. Then when someone is here again, I can't find it, and if I find it, I go through the same cycle of struggling keep it in place.

Yet, I know I '**give showers**' when I talk; the spittle (and what might be in it) that is the problem. Not only with speaking but in singing, the spray can travel 12 feet! So I see that I should wear a mask and set a good example.

Here is another one of my **excuses**: The mask could muffle my voice when preaching. My voice doesn't need any additional problems! Can I overcome these obstacles for love of my neighbor...for my brothers and sisters in Christ?

If I can, then you can. I'm going to be so glad to see you all, I will do almost anything! This mask is in that "almost anything" category. I hope you see **the humor** of my dilemma, and perhaps can relate to it in your own situation.

And so it is with all these new rules. It is **for the sake of the neighbor** that we follow them. It is the joy of the neighbor that motivates us. This neighbor who is created in God's own image. The God that we love and adore, because He hears us, provides for us and protects us, and redeems us.

With this in mind, our Council will reconvene church (*basilea* in the Greek, from which the word 'basilica' is derived) in the sanctuary beginning June 7. I know some of you will join us from home because of the risks; we love and respect your decision.

For those of us brave enough to come out, we will receive each other joyfully, while loving our neighbor to the best of our ability.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Livestream, FB & cable TV services will remain as an option. Come to worship only when you feel comfortable
- Do not come to worship if you are or feel sick
- Hold off coming for now if immune system is compromised and/or age warrants that you refrain from attendance.

For those in attendance:

- We strongly encourage the use of masks throughout the service (masks will be provided if you do not have one)
- Refrain from singing (worship team only will sing and remain masked throughout service)
- Social distancing required at all times (seats will be set up in this way...6 feet apart)
- Refrain from handshaking and congregating inside the building and after the service
- Maximum in the sanctuary (at 25%) is 75. If necessary, there are seating options available in the overflow/fellowship space (with social distancing)
- There will be no coffee fellowship time, greeting or passing of the welcome books
- Offering plates will be in the back of the church (no passing of the offering plates)
- No children coming forward for children's message or singing/playing at the end
- Nursery will not be available at this time
- Water fountain will not be available
- Two people at a time for the restrooms and one person at a time for the sink.

The protocol on which our Council agreed can be found on page 3.

You are in my heart and my prayers,

Pastor Jane

Guidelines for In-person worship services at Hope Lutheran Church – Fosston

- Occupancy – We can accommodate a maximum of 100 people (25% Occupancy) in attendance including our Pastor and volunteers, utilizing the main sanctuary, side chapel for seating.
- Weather permitting, doors will be propped open prior to and after the service to minimize the need to touch door handles.
- A Health Screening Survey will be posted at entrances, if you can answer Yes to any of the questions, please refrain from attending the service.
- All people in attendance are strongly encouraged to wear masks for the protection of those around them. Masks will be available.
- We ask that anyone needing to use the elevator limits it's use to one household at a time.
- Seating – People attending are to be seated with a minimum of 6 feet of distance on all sides maintained between households
- The Balcony will be closed to general seating for now.
- Offering Plates will not be passed, but left at the back of the church
- Bulletins will be available at the sanctuary entrance or other stations, to be picked up by each attendee.
- Recorded or Special Music will be utilized instead of congregational singing
- If there is Sharing of the Peace, it will be done verbally only, while maintaining 6 feet of social distance
- All items except hymnals and bibles to be removed from pews. Hymnals / Bibles are not be shared between households during a service.
- Communion
 - Individual communion kits to be distributed at stations
 - Persons distributing will wear a mask
 - Hand Sanitize immediately before distribution
 - Ushers to direct in a way that allows for 6 feet of social distance be maintained between households
- Acolytes / Candle lighting
 - Hand sanitize before donning robes.
 - Hand Sanitize before handling candle lighting equipment
 - 6 feet of social distance to be maintained between acolytes, including seating
 - Robes to be placed in a hamper and laundered after each use.
- High Contact areas will be regularly cleaned/sanitized. Cleaning checklist/schedule will be available in the church office.

Youth News



June Birthdays

Elizabeth Barrineau
Jaekub Larson
Tegan Larson
Wyatt Teiken

July Birthdays

Alex Hagen
McKayla Hove
Ben Steinbrenner

If you are a Hope student in grades 7-12 and we missed your birthday, please notify the church office so we can update our list.

New Acolyte List for June / July

June 14 Lukas Sannes / Brynlea Mahlen

June 21 Tia Wickham / Tony Carlin

June 28 Alexis Bailie / Alex Hagen

July 5 Vanessa Johnson / McKayla Hove

July 12 Breanna Larson / Brandon Larson

July 19 Piper Larson / Brecken Levin

July 26 Zach Theis / Aaron Norland

New guidelines for Acolytes, beginning June 14:

- Please be at the church by 9:15 a.m. on the Sunday that you are scheduled to acolyte.
- All acolytes must wear a white robe (they are located in the Fellowship Hall storage closet) and will be required to hand sanitize before donning robes and again before handling lighting equipment.
- 6 feet of social distance to be maintained between acolytes, including seating. Head Usher will instruct you where to sit.
- Robes to be placed in Pr. Janes office for laundering following the worship service.
- If you cannot acolyte when you are scheduled, please notify the church office as soon as possible.

Thank you for being an important part of our worship service.

5/13/2020 – Hope Lutheran Church Council – Meeting Minutes – Recorded by Sarah Manecke

Present: Evan Fonder, Travis Quam, Emily Quam, Sarah Manecke, Michelle Olson, Dan Carlin, Greg Mireault, Gloria Osmonson, Nathan Pederson, Tom Sedler, Bonnie Albright, Kim Kleinwachter, Dean Vikan, Tim Manecke, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Sylvia Munter & Nancy Andree

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Evan Fonder – President - via video conference
2. Devotions: Family/Youth/Education Board – Michelle read “If you complain, you remain” – Remember to not lose sight of what you’ve been given & keep things in perspective. Thank God for what you have. If one door closes, he will open another.
3. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve, with modifications, by Nancy, second by Travis, Approved Unanimously
4. Approval of Secretary’s Report: Motion to approve by Greg, second by Tom, Approved Unanimously
5. Benevolence Report: Pastor Jane reports that in addition to the usual monthly giving, spending is as follows - \$75 for material to make masks, \$68 for preemie and newborn diapers for hospital, \$200 to the food shelf, \$200 to Jennifer Albright (one time gift), & \$100/month support when training begins – leaves a balance of \$680 in the emergency fund.
6. Pastor’s Report: See written report
7. President’s Report: Evan re-echoed a Big Thanks to Pastor Jane, Michelle S., Ryan, Steve and all those who have helped during this uncertain time. We appreciate everyone’s flexibility & willingness to adapt.
8. Jennifer Albright – Mission Presentation: She will be going on a 16 month global internship to Slovenia to do ministry & understand their mission. She is needing to raise \$10,000 cost plus \$1,300 additional support per month. Trustees will inquire as to the potential donation from the Marilyn M. fund. No action taken at this time.
9. Brief Committee Reports
 - 9.1 Deacons: Dean states they have nothing new to report at this time.
 - 9.2 Family/Youth/Education: Michelle O reports they have been busy. A caravan was organized for the 6 seniors on Sunday, May 10th. Seniors were given a cake & quilt. F/Y/E board hosted a scavenger hunt via zoom for the youth; they have a couple more events planned for May; received \$230.35 in Palubicki’s receipts; teacher appreciation will be held on Sunday, May 17th; a new Sunday School curriculum will be ordered; Don Brinkman would like to do a recording for the seniors on the radio – the F/Y/E board will pay for it; and graduate boxes are on hold at this time.
 - 9.3 Music & Worship: Nancy reports they are continuing to support Pastor Jane in any way necessary. She also reported on the Garden Valley television issues during church broadcasts.
 - 9.4 Trustees: Tim reports that online giving is up & financials look good. They will move ahead with the Heritage Room remodel (paint, carpet, window trim); A/V system – still need a few funds to pay this off; Ryan was given a raise - \$100/service; church now has accounts at FNB & American Federal.
 - 9.4.1 Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report pending audit by Travis, second by Greg, Approved Unanimously
 - 9.5 Women of Hope: No report.
10. Old Business: None
11. New Business:
 - 11.1 Next Meeting – Executive Council meeting Wednesday, June 10th at 8pm; Devotions and Lunch by the Music & Worship Board
 - 11.2 Other – Re-Open Plan: Encourage congregation to use entire sanctuary & separate as much as possible (at least 6ft apart). The executive committee will draft something to present to the council.
12. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer, Meeting Adjourned.



MAY MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Neil Burshiem, LeRoy (Sonny) Johnson, Marilyn Malmanger, Judy Olson, Vivian Nord, and Lorraine Quie.

A gift was given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of Judy Olson.

A gift was given to the Music Fund in memory of Martha Sather.

June / July Bible Readings

KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

JUNE

JULY

1 Deut. 8	12 Joshua 4	23 Judges 16	1 1 Samuel 3	12 Worship	23 1 Kings 17
2 Deut. 27	13 Joshua 6	24 Ruth 1	2 1 Samuel 8	13 2 Samuel 12	24 1 Kings 18
3 Deut. 28	14 Worship	25 Ruth 2	3 1 Samuel 9	14 1 Kings 1	25 1 Kings 19
4 Deut. 29	15 Joshua 23	26 Ruth 3	4 1 Samuel 10	15 1 Kings 2	26 Worship
5 Deut. 30	16 Joshua 24	27 Ruth 4	5 Worship	16 1 Kings 3	27 2 Kings 1
6 Deut. 32	17 Judges 2	28 Worship	6 1 Samuel 15	17 1 Kings 8	28 2 Kings 2
7 Worship	18 Judges 6	29 1 Samuel 1	7 1 Samuel 16	18 1 Kings 9	29 2 Kings 4
8 Deut. 34	19 Judges 7	30 1 Samuel 2	8 1 Samuel 17	19 Worship	30 2 Kings 5
9 Joshua 1	20 Judges 14		9 2 Samuel 5	20 1 Kings 10	31 2 Kings 6
10 Joshua 2	21 Worship		10 2 Samuel 7	21 1 Kings 11	
11 Joshua 3	22 Judges 15		11 2 Samuel 11	22 1 Kings 12	