

## HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# tidings

NOVEMBER 2020

## pastor's letter from Pastor Jane

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We **thank God** for all His blessings. His hand of protection is still upon us in the form of simple precautions we can take to prevent contagion. Yet we should not take His protection for granted, nor these precautions lightly. He gives us wisdom and discernment to avoid problems in life. When we don't **take advantage of them**, we may have only ourselves to blame, if we contract this illness.

I heard **a story** of a devout man, who loved and served God all his life. He was caught in a flash flood. As he stood on his roof, he prayed asking God to save him. While he was still praying, his neighbor came by in a rowboat, but the man would not go with him and said "No, God will save me." The Sheriff's rescue boat came with flashing red lights, but the man would not get off the roof saying "No, God will save me." A helicopter crew with the National Guard tried to lower a rope to him, but he rejected their efforts as well saying "No, God will save me." The poor man's house, loosened from its foundation and crumbled into the torrent of raging water. Terrified, the man drowned in the waters as his home was demolished. When he reached the Pearly gates, he asked God "Why didn't you save me?" God said, "I sent your neighbor, the police, and the National Guard, but you would not come down off your roof." How are we like this man?

I have been **exposed directly** to a parishioner who tested positive for the Covid virus. Today Tuesday, I was notified, and I made an appointment immediately to be tested for Covid-19 at Essentia Health. We are so very fortunate to have such a comprehensive medical facility in our community, staffed by people from among us, who are our neighbors, and who care about us. I await the results, somewhat impatiently as we had such plans for next Sunday's **Confirmation** on All Saints Sunday, postponed to **Nov. 22**.

Consequently, our students will have yet another delay in one of their **important milestones**. Nevertheless, God has blessed us with great leadership who jumped right in and planned for a supply preacher and delayed confirmation to Nov. 22. In the meantime, our students are missing out on the crucial **spiritual learning that takes place in their formative years**. Parents, please be vigilant and use the Sunday School packets, watch or listen to church as a family, encourage the confirmands, take advantage of Youth Group activities and do not neglect your own spiritual food.

I know online learning is not as stimulating as one on one. As soon as I am cleared of this virus, I will be holding one-on-one sessions for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> graders in particular, but anyone may come for **a 15-minute masked, 6-foot distanced session** after church services. Please call to schedule your child, or just come to observe.

Until cleared, I am doing my work at night when no one is in the church. So if you see church lights on at night, (don't panic) it is just me and my dog, working on the bulletin, newsletter, Bible Studies, and thinking of ways to make things better for our congregation and especially our kids during this plague. Your **suggestions** and wisdom is always welcome.

In the meantime, **please take this virus seriously**. Wearing a mask is not a political statement. It is a health precaution. Keeping a safe distance is more than inconvenience, it is loving your neighbor to the best of your ability. Washing your hands, using sanitizer or wearing gloves, is kindness.

I must admit, I have thought at times that perhaps I was **giving in to fear**. But when God gives us easy precautions to take, and we ignore them, it seems unwise. My prayer is that all who are in quarantine, have tests that come out negative; that all those who are in isolation regain their health; and that each of you remain safe and cautious.

May the peace that passes understanding keep you now and always.

In His love,

Pastor Jane



*Please keep the following people*

Drew Wahlstrom	Christina Anderson	Janet Olson	Herald Watnemo
Paisley Straub	Kate Moore	Michael Killian	Wes Roland
Malia Halvorson	Christine Johnson	Bill Kuzmaul	Julia Urdahl Family
Ilene Sistad	Carol Heide	Keith Caskey	Paul Kalinowski Family
Paul Nelson	Christopher Vezner	Oskie & Mary Hanson	
Lois Storey	Paul Curfman	Cathy Albright	Missionaries:
Karen Bolme	Dean & Joe Lindberg	Wally Olson	Jennifer Albright -
Hilma Stadstad	Tom Sedler	Gwen Johnson	Slovenia
Denise Monson	Bob Norland	Michelle Johnson	Schroeders -
Trina Rodgers	Richard Miller	Donald Gwynn	Philippines
Angie Olson	Hazel Trogstad	Mavis & Lowell Veum	Simon Haamer -
Mike Knutson	Jody Nelson	Brent Bakken	Estonia
Elizabeth Barrineau	Marian Jenkins	Craig Larsen	
Tubby Solsten	Pr. Arlen Hermodson	Patty Niko	

## NOVEMBER SERVANTS

**ALTAR GUILD:** Gina Gensburger / Alisa Halvorson

### COMMUNION SERVERS:

**November 8** Wayne Olson / Emily Quam / Carey Sannes / Teresa Sannes

**USHERS:** George Benson / Greg Mireault / Tom Sedler / Dan Sistad / Mike Theis

### HEAD USHERS / ACOLYTES:

<b>November 1</b>	Sid Fjerstad	Wyatt Teiken / Tia Wickham
<b>November 8</b>	Tom Kleinwachter	Dawson Bailie / Alexis Bailie
<b>November 15</b>	Terry Halvorson	Elizabeth Barrineau / Vanessa Johnson
<b>November 22</b>	Rod Olson	Will Christen / Breanna Larson
<b>November 29</b>	Darin Larson	Justin Gubrud / Piper Larson



Dear Hope Church family,

Our deepest thanks for your expressions of love and care for us when Lydia died. Life is not the same without her and we are finding our way through the valley of the shadow of death because we know God is with us and God is good. Your prayers have helped us remember these truths.

We are grateful for the ways God has blessed us through friends and family.

Thank you.

Love, Pastor Paul and Sheryl



#### OCTOBER MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to the Audio/Visual Fund in memory of Gary Carlin, Donna (Sandgren) Gregoire, Kenny Hanson, Margaret Kaasa, Marvin Lindberg, and Lydia Wahlstrom.

A gift was given to the Broadcast Fund in memory of Gary Carlin.

Gifts were given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Gary Carlin, and the Sundrud, Bratland, & Satran families.

#### H.E.L.P. is Here!

Our **H**ealth **E**quipment **L**ending **P**roject room has a selection of home health equipment.



If you are in need of a loan of this kind of equipment, please call the church office.

The intent is that this ministry would be the hands and feet of Jesus to anyone in need of this kind of assistance.

Donations of all types of home health equipment are welcome.

#### Stewardship Corner

How would you define a great life? Is it when you have everything you want? Is it when you are able to do whatever you want? Is it a life where everything comes easy and there's little hardship? Is it a great life when you have a lot of money, or when you do something that causes your name to be remembered for posterity? Jesus said, "*whoever would be great among you must be your servant*" (Matthew 20:26). God's path to a great life is a life lived in service of others. Greatness in God's kingdom is characterized by willingness to serve others rather than insistence on being served.

## YOUTH NEWS



### November Birthdays

Jaime Carlin

Macie Hanson

Miley Hove

Taylor Kroening

Piper Larson

Emma Olson

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.

### Relying on Jesus

Many of us have experienced the fun of playing sports. One of the more exhausting sports is basketball. The pace of the game can be very demanding. During the midst of an intense game, it is a great relief to hear the referee blow his whistle indicating a time-out during which time players get their energy revived after drinking some needed water. The player almost thinks, "That water saved my life!"

The Christian life can be compared to a basketball game. As Christians saved by Christ's atoning work on the cross, we remain on earth to be Christ's ambassadors in order that others might come to saving faith also (2 Corinthians 5:20). But it gets to be exhausting. No one seems to appreciate our efforts to be kind and loving. In fact, sometimes we're made fun of when we try to explain our relationship with Jesus. It's like being tripped on the basketball court with no ref to call a foul. We need the whistle to blow, so we can get to the sidelines to be refreshed. That's why it's so important to be reading and studying the Bible. The Word of God is like that water bottle during time-outs of the basketball game. It clears our heads. It reminds us of our goal and revives us so we can get back into the "game" of living the Christian life.

In our lives, we don't always win, but we don't dwell on our losses. As Christians, we experience failures. Mistakes, failures – SIN – are part of being a Christian. It's important to remember that Christ, knowing our sinfulness, lived the perfect life in our places. He took our mistakes, our failures, our SIN to the cross, and we are free from the burden of carrying our sin around.

The Apostle Paul knew about discouragement; he experienced failure. He was often tired and friendless. He was stoned and whipped by his own people! Still he wrote, "Let us not become weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). He knew firsthand how difficult this command is to fulfill. In fact, it's impossible. We can't do it on our own. Only in Christ's strength can we find the energy to keep on "doing good." To that end he prayed, "May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

So, don't give up! When you get tired, find your spiritual water bottle, your Bible. Health experts tell us to drink a minimum of eight glasses of water a day. Even eight minutes a day spent in reading God's Word, accompanied by prayer and meditation on your reading, could do wonders for your spiritual vitality. Persevere in Christ's energy!

## **10/14/2020 - Hope Lutheran Church Council - Meeting Minutes - Recorded by Sarah Manecke**

**Present:** Evan Fonder, Sarah Manecke, Michelle Olson, Travis Quam, Dean Vikan, Nancy Andree, Tim Manecke, Pastor Jane Ekholm, Sylvia Munter & Wayne Olson

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Evan Fonder – President

**Devotions:** Family/Youth/Education Board – Michelle read “Truths to Remember when Water Rises”. Tough times will come & end eventually, the Lord will be with you and you will not be overcome.

**Approval of Agenda with Modifications:** Motion to approve by Travis, second by Tim, Approved Unanimously

**Approval of Secretary’s Report:** Motion to approve by Nancy, second by Tim, Approved Unanimously

**Benevolence Report:** Pastor Jane reports that benevolence received \$1,220 in the month of September. LCMC - \$244; World Mission - \$249; Augustana District - \$61; National Mission - \$300; and Local Outreach (backpack program, emergency fund) - \$366. There were no Emergency fund expenditures in September

**Pastor’s Report:** See written report

**President’s Report:** Evan’s father is having some health issues – thoughts & prayers to his family would be much appreciated. He continues to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility. Try not to get discouraged as we will get through these challenging times.

### **Brief Committee Reports**

**Deacons:** Wayne reports that men’s gathering on Sunday afternoons is going well. Tom Kleinwachter is leading the group of about 8 men. Deacons discussed recommendations on who to get to replace Tom Sedler on the board.

**Family/Youth/Education:** Michelle O. reports they have had a great turn out (25-30 kids) for youth group evening events with Michelle Levin.

**Music & Worship:** Nancy reports she is getting readers for Sunday; discussed the possibility of doing 2 confirmation services; possibly doing a dance for Christmas Eve service; would be more than happy to help with a Thanksgiving service if necessary

**Trustees:** Tim reports the financials are down a little, but still doing well for the year all things considered. Approved replacement of 19 windows next year for \$16,000; television has been installed in Fellowship Hall along with new wifi – youth group has been using it and its been working well.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report pending audit by Travis, second by Nancy, Approved Unanimously

**Women of Hope:** No report

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

**10.1 Next Meeting** – Executive Council meeting Wednesday, November 11th at 7:30pm; Devotions and Lunch by the Music & Worship Board.

**10.2 Heritage & Building/Grounds Beautification Committee** – Keri Mireault, Mary Hanson & Joan Dufault would like to create this committee to expand on the scope of their duties. They will come up with a plan to curate and display Hope Church Memorabilia in the Heritage Room and enhance our church grounds.

**Closed** with the Lord’s Prayer, Meeting Adjourned.

## Giving Thanks to God

As we approach Thanksgiving and then, shortly thereafter, the end of 2020, we are reminded of the many blessings that God has given to us. The question that we should be asking is, "How do we begin to thank God for all that He has done and continues to do for us?" High on our lists of things to thank our Heavenly Father for should be our new lives in Christ. In spite of our sinful ways, God demonstrated His awesome love for us by sending His only Son to the Cross on our behalf. We certainly will also thank Him for our families as well as our material blessings, and we can be confident that God will bless us with a cure for this Pandemic that is plaguing the world. How blessed we are that God provides for all that we need to sustain our lives, and, through faith that He provides, He will give us life forever with Him.

I want to suggest another wonderful blessing for us that we should always give thanks for and that is God's faithfulness to us. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote, *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness"* (Lamentations 3:22-23). God's faithfulness to us never wavers, even though we vacillate in our faithfulness to Him.

Because of God's faithfulness to us, God has blessed us so we can be a blessing to others. Recognizing our blessings are so freely given to us causes us to want to share our blessings. Through faith, we willingly *"share with God's people who are in need"* (Romans 12:13). *"Christ's love compels us"* (2 Corinthians 5:14) to respond to the needs of others, both physical and spiritual needs. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we become channels through which God works.

Those who are a blessing to others reflect and live with an attitude that is described as "an attitude of gratitude." To live with "an attitude of gratitude," means we truly understand that God is the source of all blessings. Understanding God's grace, love, and mercy, we are motivated to live lives which reflect our gratitude for what God is doing in our lives.

Because of the Covid-19 virus, family gatherings may be smaller than in past years but hopefully it won't prevent you from having a wonderful day with your family, enjoying some turkey, and possibly watching some football. Happy Thanksgiving!





# November

## BIBLE READINGS

### KEY CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE

1 Sunday Worship	9 Amos 2	17 Micah 4	25 Zechariah 14
2 Daniel 6	10 Amos 9	18 Micah 7	26 Malachi 3
3 Daniel 9	11 Obadiah	19 Nahum 1	27 Malachi 4
4 Hosea 4	12 Jonah 1	20 Habakkuk 3	28 Matthew 5
5 Hosea 14	13 Jonah 2	21 Zephaniah 3	29 Sunday Worship
6 Joel 2	14 Jonah 3	22 Sunday Worship	30 Matthew 6
7 Amos 1	15 Sunday Worship	23 Haggai 1	
8 Sunday Worship	16 Jonah 4	24 Haggai 2	

Advice from the  
Church Secretary -

Swallow a live toad the first thing in  
the morning and nothing worse will  
happen to you the rest of the day.



## Ignite

### Youth Station

A safe, fun place to hang  
out, play games, and build  
friendships.

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays  
to all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Fall Hours: 3:00-7:00 pm

**Masks and social  
distancing required.**

Located on the west end of  
the Fosston City Hall  
building, across from the  
Civic Center.