



Monthly Newsletter of
Mount Hope Lutheran Church
Preschool and Childcare

Spirit of Hope

January 2020

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. Proverbs 23:18

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020!! We are entering this new year filled with hope. I “hope” that we will all commit or recommit to living out our life together here at this Mountain of Hope, Mount Hope Lutheran Church. The Lord has placed us in this place at this particular time to serve Him. Come, get involved in the life of Mount Hope ***Where Guests Become Friends and Friends Become Family***. Please consider some of these important reasons to make church attendance a priority in 2020.

The following is by Thom S. Rainer, *Nine Good Reasons To Attend Church Weekly* (Thomrainer.com), we will continue with part two next month. I think I’ve heard most of the excuses.

“You don’t need to attend church to be a good Christian.”

“We give our family priority when we miss church to do sports on Sunday.”

“My church really doesn’t meet my needs.”

“I’m not getting fed at my church.”

“Sunday is really the only day we have off.”

“My church has a bunch of hypocrites.”

I will deal with these and other lame excuses later. For now, I want to focus on the positive. Why is it important for us to attend church services regularly, usually weekly? Allow me to share four reasons.

1. **The local church was God's plan in the New Testament.** From the founding of the first local church in Jerusalem to the growth of new congregations throughout the Roman Empire, the New Testament is clear. God wanted His people gathering regularly and faithfully. And lest we forget, all of these congregations had problems. All of these churches had problem people. Hypocrisy was real and pervasive, but it was not a valid excuse to give up the local church.
2. **The Bible speaks clearly about the priority of local congregations.** If you read the New Testament from Acts to Revelation, you will see that a gathered church was not just one important factor for the Christian, it was one of the highest priorities. After the ascension of Jesus, the local church was truly "the body of Christ."
3. **We are commanded and designed to enjoy worshipping the one true God as a gathered community.** What if church members really did one thing in worship services? What if they asked God to let them see Him and know Him fully as the church gathered together? What if that was the priority over evaluating the style of music? What if that was more important than the preacher preaching five minutes more than you deemed appropriate?
4. **A unified church can stand strong in a culture turning away from God.** We can't be a unified church with sporadic attendance. We can't stand together if we aren't persistently gathered together. Do you remember how the early church in Jerusalem reached a culture opposed to God? The outside world saw the unity and joy of the church and wanted to know more about this Jesus they worshipped. Remember, they were "praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those were being saved" (Acts 2:47). A faithfully attended church is a unified church. A unified church is an evangelistic church.

Serving together,
Pastor Fran Green



Mark Your Calendars

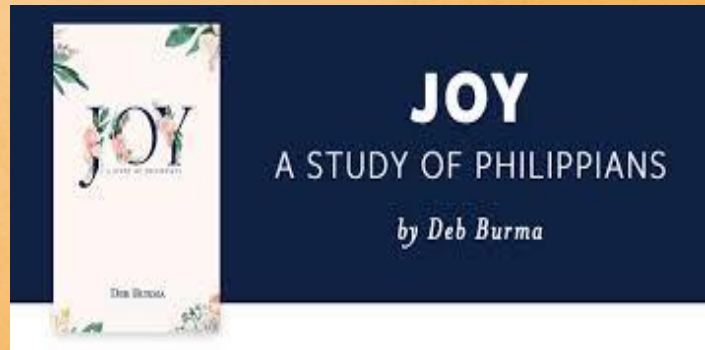
**Congregational Voters' Meeting
Monday, Jan 27 at 6:30pm**

Annual Reports will be available the Sunday prior to the meeting. If you are responsible for submitting a report, please do so by Wednesday, Jan 15. It should be sent to Kim at church@mthopelutheran.org.

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

Sunday morning 9:30am Bible classes will resume on January 5. Our study of Romans will continue. You are welcome to join Bible study classes at any time.

In-Home Bible Study



LifeLight Bible Study

Thursday morning Bible class resumes January 9, with the study *Wilderness Wandering*. Please contact Harriet B at 952 888 0392 with any questions. The class meets at 10:00am each Thursday.

Joy: A Study of Philippians has us diving deeply into Philippians and other Scripture references. It's the perfect combination of daily devotion, personal reflection and gatherings to spiritually grow and embrace a joy-filled life.

Join us on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 pm at Jennifer Adamek's home.
9117 Yukon Ave, Bloomington

Please read Week 4: pages 70-89 and call Jennifer if you have any questions 952-451-5860.

First Friday Book Club

First Friday book club will meet on the 2nd Friday of January, January 10 at 1:30 pm at Renata Melby's home. We will be reading *Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. It is about the resettlement of Seattle's Japanese population during WW II and a disrupted romance.

Worship Attendance

Thank you to everyone who prepared and served an Advent meal. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

November 24	8:15am	36
	10:45am	48
November 27	6:30pm	54
December 1	8:15am	37
	10:45am	28
December 4	6:30pm	49
December 8	8:15am	46
	10:45am	46
December 11	6:30pm	55
December 15	8:15am	37
	10:45pm	83
December 18	6:30pm	50



Help Needed

Please join us the evening of January 6th at 6:30 pm to take the Christmas decorations down. A lot of hands will be needed to put those ornaments away.

Thank you!



Friendship

Women of Hope - LWML

We are having a Saturday Meeting this month! All women of the congregation are invited to attend. This month's topic for our Program *Friendship* will be *Profile of a Friend*. Celebrate the attributes of friends whom we love and guidelines for what to look for in a friend. This fellowship time and Bible study is on Saturday, January 11th at 9:30am in the Adult Education Room / Library. We'll enjoy the DVD, program, and, of course, treats and fellowship!

Preschool and Childcare

The sanctuary was close to full for both Christmas programs the children performed on Saturday, December 14. Twenty dozen cookies were served as we celebrated Christmas together with the Center families following the performances. It is hard not to get excited when spending time with that many 3, 4, and 5 year olds. The children sang, acted, and played the bells as they told the Christmas story.

Four new children will be starting at the Center in January. We are excited to add these little ones.

Registration for the 2020-21 school year opens in January for our current families and Mount Hope congregation families. Registration will open to the public the first Monday in February. Please continue to speak well of the program in the community. The majority of the children currently enrolled came to us because of a personal referral.





Children's Ministry

Just in case you missed the fun, here is a picture of the Sunday School children taken the Sunday they presented their Christmas program for the congregation. They did a wonderful job sharing the JOY of Christmas!

The Sunday School children will also be celebrating the New Year together from 5:00-8:00pm on December 31.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, February, 5 from 6:30-7:30 – Valentine's Dance Party

Enjoy some dessert, dance and decorate your own heart cookie with your friends at Mount Hope!



Reaching Our Friends and Neighbors

In-Touch Ministries

Mount Hope sent out numerous care packages to our friends this Christmas. We sent six Care package/ McDonald's gift cards to our college kids, one military care package to Jonathan Moss, one Missionary basket to POBLO's Nader & Georgette's family and eight baskets to our shut-ins. Thank you!



Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Mount Hope's mitten tree. If you have any boots, scarves, hats or mittens that did not make it to the Mitten Tree, please call the Buelows (952-888-0392) and they will pick up your donation before making their trip to Trinity First.

Right to Life Sunday

In honor of Right To Life Sunday we will be collecting new or gently used baby clothes (up to size 2) from Sunday, January 5, until Sunday, January 10. Place your donations in the crib in the Narthex. They will be taken to New life Family Services. If you have any questions, please call Harriet B at 952-888-0392.



no-*t*-o-*v*-e-*d*-*y*-*i*-*a*-*d*

1 Jan	Is 61:1—11	Luke 1:57—80	
2 Jan	Is 62:1—12	Luke 2:1—20	
3 Jan	Is 63:1—14	Luke 2:21—40	
4 Jan	Is 63:15—65:2	Luke 2:41—52	
5 Jan	Is 65:8—25	Luke 3:1—20	
6 Jan	Is 66:1—20	Luke 3:21—38	
7 Jan	Ezek 1:1—14, 22—28	Rom 1:1—17	<i>Habakkuk 1:1—3:19</i>
8 Jan	Ezek 2:1—3:11	Rom 1:18—32	
9 Jan	Ezek 3:12—28	Rom 2:1—16	<i>Ezek 4:1—11:25</i>
10 Jan	Ezek 18:1—4, 19—32	Rom 2:17—29	<i>Ezek 19:1—24:27</i>
11 Jan	Ezek 33:1—20	Rom 3:1—18	
12 Jan	Ezek 34:1—24	Rom 3:19—31	
13 Jan	Ezek 36:13—28	Rom 4:1—25	
14 Jan	Ezek 36:33—37:14	Rom 5:1—21	
15 Jan	Ezek 37:15—28	Rom 6:1—23	
16 Jan	Ezek 38:1—23	Rom 7:1—20	
17 Jan	Ezek 39:1—10, 17—29	Rom 7:21—8:17	
18 Jan	Ezek 40:1—4; 43:1—12	Rom 8:18—39	<i>Ezek 40:5—42:20; 43:13—27</i>
19 Jan	Ezek 44:1—16, 23—29	Rom 9:1—18	
20 Jan	Ezek 47:1—14, 21—23	Rom 9:19—33	
21 Jan	Joel 1:1—20	Rom 10:1—21	
22 Jan	Joel 2:1—17	Rom 11:1—24	
23 Jan	Joel 2:18—32	Rom 11:25—12:13	
24 Jan	Joel 3:1—21	Rom 12:14—13:14	
25 Jan	Zech 1:1—21	Rom 14:1—23	
26 Jan	Zech 2:1—3:10	Rom 15:1—13	
27 Jan	Zech 4:1—5:11	Rom 15:14—33	
28 Jan	Zech 6:1—7:14	Rom 16:17—27	
29 Jan	Zech 8:1—23	2 Tim 1:1—18	
30 Jan	Zech 9:1—17	2 Tim 2:1—26	
31 Jan	Zech 10:1—11:3	2 Tim 3:1—18	

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:4





January Celebration Days



Birthdays

2 Brady McMullen
4 Vicki Johnson-Schmidt
6 Max Blauvelt
8 Matt Frein
10 Marilyn Nelson
11 Jenn Schleifer
13 James Froemming
14 Peggy Maas
15 Tammy Green
15 Stephanie Hinz
19 Dan Adamek
19 Zachery Brantner
20 Anika Quittschreiber
22 Jenny Rosenlund
27 Darlene Wendt
28 Claire McMullen
30 Tracie Klug-Melbostad
31 Steve Sundseth

Baptismal Birthdays

1 Shirley Favorit
9 Linda Carstens
11 Lea Fox
12 DJ Fox
13 Ed Borgen
15 Karen Mueller
19 Arlene Schmidt
20 Pastor Green
28 Drew Adamek
29 Ina Adams



THOSE WHO SERVE IN JANUARY

Altar Guild
Sunday Morning Coffee

Sue H
Prepare: Karen Mack

Clean-Up: Dawn V

January 5

Elder Steve S
8:15

10:45

Reader Conrad N

Tammy G

Greeters Linda C & Harriet B

Karen M

Ushers Jeff & Faith A, Al B

Joel S, Dave S, Armand B

Counters Kirk V & Kim W

January 12

Elder Matt F
8:15

10:45

Reader Ted S

Karen M

Greeters Pat & Gene R

Darlene W

Ushers Jerry B, Bob T, Ted S

Kirsten B, Steve S, Steve S, Lloyd Q

Counters Jenny & Cody R

January 19

Elder Al J
8:15

10:45

Reader Paul H

Renata M

Greeters Pauline V & Sue H

Shirley F

Ushers Arnie B, Gene R, Mike R, Butch C

John M, Bill R, Kirk V

Counters Joel & Betty S, Kirsten B

January 26

Elder John M
8:15

10:45

Reader Faith A

Kim W

Greeters Conrad & Marilyn N

Darlene B

Ushers John & Karen M, Conrad N, Eileen D

Kirsten B, Steve S, Steve S, Lloyd Q

Counters Harriet & Jerry B



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Church Office and Center Closed	2	3	4 9-11am POBLO Advocate Mtg Fellowship Hall
Noisy Offering 5 8:15am Worship 9:30am Connecting Hour 10:45am Worship	6 5:00pm IFC 6:30pm Take down Christmas decorations	7 8:00pm AA	8 9:00am Prayer Group 10:00am IFC	9 10:00am LifeLight Bible Study	10 10:00am IFC 1:30pm 1 st Friday Book Club	11 9:30am Women of Hope
12 8:15am Worship 9:30am Connecting Hour 10:45am Worship	13 5:00pm IFC	14 8:00pm AA	15 9:00am Prayer Group 10:00am IFC	16 10:00am LifeLight Bible Study 5:00pm Ministry Staff Mtg 6:30pm Governing Board Meets	17 Bethesda Thrift Shop Work Day 10:00am IFC	18
19 8:15am Worship 9:30am Connecting Hour 10:45am Worship	20 5:00pm IFC	21 8:00pm AA 6:30pm In- Home Bible Study at Adamek's home	22 9:00am Prayer Group 10:00am IFC	23 10:00am LifeLight Bible Study	24 10:00am IFC	25
26 8:15am Worship 9:30am Connecting Hour 10:45am Worship	27 5:00pm IFC 6:30pm Voters' meeting	28 8:00pm AA	29 9:00am Prayer Group 10:00am IFC	30 10:00am LifeLight Bible Study	31	

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:15 am Traditional Worship Service
9:30 am Connecting Hour
Bible Study and Sunday School
10:45 am Praise Worship Service

Phone: 952-888-5059

E-mail: church@mthopelutheran.org

Website: www.mthopelutheran.org

Mount Hope Lutheran Staff

Fran Green	Pastor
Candy Frein	Administrative Assistant
Christina Brantner	Music Director
Kathy Sundseth	Custodian
Kim Wuebke	Preschool / Childcare Director
	Administrative Assistant
Steve Sundseth	Custodian
Sam Killam	Custodian

Mount Hope Lutheran Church
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Bloomington, MN 55431

Address Service Requested

