

Spirit of Hope

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Preschool and Childcare

April 15, 2020

*So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here.
1 Peter 1:6 (TLB)*

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!!

Happy Easter!

I'd like to share a daily devotion from our Lenten study, authored by Pastor Michael Hoy:

Easter Witnesses

Hoy writes,

You are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24:48

The "things" that the disciples witnessed are Jesus' life and ministry, death, and resurrection. They have witnessed how Jesus came to bring wholeness and healing to humanity, sharing in their wounds and bringing life. They have witnessed how he took up his cross, suffering, and dying for the sake of the world. And they have witnessed how he rose again from the dead to make life the final word for us all.

Even in our own time, we are witnesses of Jesus. We see where humanity is scarred by abuse, injustice, and oppression. We see how illness and death inflict our lives and the lives of our loved ones. We see our creation groaning under the strains of what we have done or failed to do. And we see all of humanity caught in the silence and condemnation of it all. Witnessing means we do not stand on the sidelines while this is happening. We witness to the truth of Jesus. We bring his life and promise to bear, sharing in the scars of our world, trusting in the witness of our risen Lord that we, too, shall be raised to life with him.

Lord, you were a faithful witness to the truth of promises. Lead us to live lives of faithful witness in your name. Amen.

The newsletter continues now.

Please continue to phone, email, and contact each other through whatever means works for you. **Thank you for being there for each other in our Mount Hope family.** Of course, it is not as good as seeing each other in person, but these connections are so important for all of us. Do not hesitate to call if you need anything. The church office is staffed, and our contact information is on our website, mthopelutheran.org.

It is hard to believe that Easter is now behind us. Even though we do not have a midweek worship now, please make time each day to be in God's Word. Use the FAITH 5 bookmarks to guide a family devotion each day/evening or look for something on RightNow Media (rightnowmedia.org).

Please remember to give, your offerings are needed for the mission of Mount Hope to continue. You may mail in or give through the "Giving" link. Thank you to all of you who continue to give your tithes each week!

As mentioned each of the past several weeks, our website includes a growing selection of sermons mthopelutheran.org/sermons. The worship services from Palm Sunday and Easter recorded at Mount Hope are there. Also, if you haven't already done so, look for the email with information on subscribing to our YouTube page. We continue to put content there, including *Five with Fran*, a short time of Scripture and prayer. Please keep an eye on the website for other updates and information.

Finally, many of you have asked about the Lord's Supper. This is an ongoing matter of discussion in our district and synod. There are many things to consider such as the proper manner to honor our Lord (*1 Corinthians 11:27*); as well as loving our neighbors by setting a good example of obeying the stay home directive to minimize the spread of corona virus, to name just two reasons. Yes, this is a gift that our Lord left us with; but we also have the gift of His Word. We experience His power and presence through that powerful word and through prayer. For now, we are waiting until we are able to gather together to receive Jesus' body and blood. I have included a short message to read through for this week on Holy Communion. I hope that it will help us grow even deeper in our appreciation of this incredible gift of our Lord.

Please continue to pray for Mount Hope, our country, the leadership, and our world; COVID-19 will be conquered!

Serving together,
Pastor Fran Green

The Message

On September 14, 1814 after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Baltimore Harbor during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key a lawyer and amateur poet, was inspired to write a poem after seeing the flag named the Star Spangled Banner triumphantly flying above the fort after the battle. He named the poem, "Defence of Fort M'Henry". The poem was set to a popular tune of the time, of course, was renamed the Star Spangled Banner and became a very popular and well-known patriotic song. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, which was signed by President Herbert Hoover. It has been played and sung at events ever since.

Whenever it is played, it is a proclamation of who we are as a country. It is a remembrance of a specific event that occurred in history that allowed the current singing to even take place. **The proclamation is uniting an historical event with the present.** As such it is very important to most people and is more than just symbolism of what our country stands for, although it contains that too. So, there is a lot of emotion that goes into the short event of singing the National Anthem.

Do you ever think about what you are proclaiming when you kneel/receive Holy Communion? I respect our flag and our country very much, but it is truly nothing when compared with kneeling at the rail. **"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26**

Just as in singing the National Anthem is a uniting of an historical even with the present; this meal goes beyond that and is much deeper. When we participate in Holy Communion, The Passover Meal, celebrating the Lord's deliverance of His people from the bondage of Slavery in Egypt, is united with Jesus the Passover Lamb crucified on a cross, died and buried only to rise again on the third day. Jesus conquered death and all who look to Him,

place their faith in Him are delivered from the bondage of sin, death, and the devil. That is what we are proclaiming when we kneel at the altar. It goes even deeper than that, not only is there a uniting of history to the present, we are eagerly anticipating the Lord Jesus' return. New Testament Scholar NT Wright puts it like this:

“The Eucharist is the moment at which the past event comes forward to live again in the present, and the future moment of the Lord’s return comes backward in time to challenge us in the present.” That is our proclamation!

All of that including our Lord’s Real Presence. We do not claim to understand this real presence; we take it on faith because Jesus said This is my body – This is my blood. Every time we participate in this Holy Meal, we are proclaiming the death and resurrection of our Lord even as He is present in, with, and under the simple elements.

What are you proclaiming when you participate in the Lord’s Supper?

The Apostle Paul told us in **1 Corinthians 11:1**, **“And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”**

1 Corinthians 1:2-3, **“I am writing to God’s church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be His own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.”**

1. Put our faith and trust in Jesus, receiving His forgiveness, His grace, His strength.
2. We are affirming our place in the Body of Christ, His Church, taking our place in the Story of God.

1 Corinthians 10:17, **“And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body. Think about the people of Israel. Weren’t they united by eating the sacrifices at the altar?”** Yes, and we are all united in this Holy Meal.

3. We are proclaiming our faith to the world. Corinth was a city much like we find in our world today. It was extremely diverse, there was a variety of cultures, language, religious, and philosophical beliefs. The church was struggling with these outside forces infiltrating the church, as well dealing with internal misunderstandings of Paul’s teachings.

1 Corinthians 1:17, “For Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News – and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.” Thankfully, we can do the same. We don’t have to worry about having all the answers, we don’t have to worry about the “tough questions”.

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.”

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in His wisdom saw to it that the world would never know Him through human wisdom, He has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense.

“For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.” 1 Corinthians 11:26

That is our bold proclamation! That is what we announce to God and the world each and every time we receive the Holy Meal. I can’t wait for the day when we will all gather together again to receive and participate in this precious gift of God!



If you are interested in becoming part of Mount Hope’s Prayer Chain, please reach out to Marilyn Nelson at conradmarilyn@usfamily.net.

Announcements

DVD Copies of Worship Services

Please contact the office at 952 888 5059 if you are interested in receiving the videotaped services on DVD.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to everyone who designated Mount Hope for their Thrivent Choice dollars. Mount Hope received \$2598.00 at the beginning of March from Thrivent. If you are a Thrivent member, you too can designate Mount Hope to receive your Choice Dollars.

Women of Hope

The Women of Hope have canceled the remaining events of the 2019-20 year. They look forward to picking back up in the fall at their September gathering.

LWML

The LWML Spring Rally has been canceled. Continue to pray for this group as they do wonderful mission work.

Voters' Meeting

The Voters' Meeting scheduled for April 27 has been postponed due to COVID-19. A new date will be announced when it is safe for everyone to gather again.

Life Line Screening

The Life Line Screening event scheduled at Mount Hope on Tuesday, May 5 has been canceled. We will look for another time later in the year to host this event.

Church Communication

If you have an email address and are receiving this newsletter via postal mail, please contact the office. To save on the cost of postage, we would prefer to email the newsletter. Thank you. (church@mthopelutheran.org)

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

Phone: 952-888-5059

E-mail: church@mthopelutheran.org

Website: www.mthopelutheran.org

Mount Hope's Staff

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

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Address Service Requested

