

Spirit of Hope

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Preschool and Childcare

June 24, 2020

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success. Proverbs 15:22 (NLT)

You will notice that I have not included a message this week. I thought it appropriate and timely to include our district president's most recent *Talking Points* in light of our family vacation.

But, I will give a couple of updates here. First, our vision team has been busy thinking through our strategy and how we live out our vision statement. In other words, how do we actually *Reach our friends and neighbors with the truth, love, and hope of Jesus Christ?* What is our strategy in growing as His disciples? We see that vision accomplished by *Inviting Guests who become Friends, Friends who become part of the Mount Hope and more importantly Jesus' family.* Look for more information coming out through the summer related to life here at Mount Hope.

Second, our private Holy Communion offerings have been well-received. Please contact the church office to get your spot for NEXT Thursday, July 2. We will not be offering the Lord's Supper this week, June 22-27, as I will be spending a few days away camping with my family.

Finally, several members of our leadership team met this past week to discuss resuming in-person worship services. We have been in ongoing discussions and monitoring current COVID-19 statistics closely while also planning for our reopening. Thank you for your patience and understanding; we all want to get back to worshipping here at Mount Hope but want to be as **safe as possible**. We are going to offer in-person worship beginning on **Sunday, July 12**. There will be much more information coming in the next couple of weeks as we prepare. Also, we will continue to offer online worship.

Please continue to pray for Mount Hope, our city, country, the leadership, those on the frontlines battling during these challenging times and our world!! We pray for July 12 and that we will be able to SAFELY worship together and for wisdom and discernment for all of us as we determine which worship option will be best for each individual and our families.

We are Mount Hope, *Where Guests become Friends, Friends become Family.*

Pastor Fran Green

Talking Points

Dr. Lucas Woodford, MNS District President

Talking Points with our District President, Dr. Lucas Woodford

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4, ESV)

Another election season is upon us. It is a reminder that we live in a land of law and order, with governmental elected officials, designed to care for and bring order to the society of our land. Lutheran Christians understand that government (or the “state”) is the realm of force made necessary by the sinfulness of humanity, but which exists alongside of and protects the constructive realm of love made possible by the Gospel.

The mission of the Holy Christian Church, therefore, is not to create Christian nations per se, but rather to proclaim the forgiveness of sins earned by Jesus Christ to every last man, woman, and child on the face of this planet, regardless of the type of government present.

In our present pandemic context and with racial reconciliation and justice now in the foreground, matters of politics and governmental oversight have been relentlessly put before us the last number of months. Regardless of what you think about any one particular government official and their performance, the office each of them fills has been put in place for the good of our society and the care of humanity.

The role of government

Lutherans have long understood the authority of the state to be rooted in the fourth commandment:

Honor your father and mother. *What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them. (Luther's Small Catechism)*

Therefore, the structure and root of government comes from God's ultimate authority and was first established through the divinely created vocation of parents. Like parents who care for, nurture, protect, guide, and discipline their children, the role of government exists for a similar purpose, though with some very distinct features which are often specific to the particular type of government a country may have. Sometimes, those features can be very good and useful in helping the people of a society to flourish; other times, they can be oppressive, harsh, or even tyrannical, causing the repression and subjugation of a people.

We live in the blessing of a democratic republic, designed with three specific branches of government to foster the public good and to be objective checks and balances on one another. On the whole, it has been considered by many to be the premiere form of government that fosters "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" (Declaration of Independence). Yet though not necessarily original to its inception, our democratic government has come to be primarily based upon a two-party political system of elected officials, who bring varying ideas and philosophies of what would be best for the good of the American people.

"Us vs. them"

As a result, "politics" has become a regular part of our society. Unfortunately, because of our fallen and sinful human condition, politics can be very ugly as each candidate vies for office—slandering assaults on character, lies, rancorous supporters, and acrimonious opponents. To seek the power of a given office meant for the betterment of a society means one has to do everything possible to disempower someone else who is also seeking that power.

In our current digital world and with the advent of social media platforms, the nature of our governmental election system has seen this process become extremely vitriolic and unhealthy. It often pulls in well-meaning people who suddenly begin seeing others (perhaps even neighbors or family) as enemies. Unfortunately, politics can become cutthroat and cause others to think and act in terms of “us” vs. “them” and, subsequently, how the “them” can be destroyed.

Of course, Jesus died and rose for both the “them” and “us” of society, regardless of any one person’s political affiliation. There is no limit to His love and no boundary to His mercy—which you most assuredly and abundantly receive through the water and the Word of Holy Baptism. In those waters, the Lord calls you to be His very own in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You are His and He is yours.

Regardless of your country’s governmental structure or your political preference, by faith you are a citizen of God’s eternal kingdom, held fast to God’s sovereign and everlasting care through the shed blood of Jesus. That means no pandemic, government official, or public policy can ever change your baptismal heavenly citizenship and the blessed rights that come with it—the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

But as it relates to our vocation as responsible and active earthly citizens, Lutheran Christians hold that our baptismal calling gives us an identity that . . .

1. Asks us to be above the fray of hyper-partisanship and rancor as we readily engage in our civic duties.
2. Drowns our sin in daily contrition and repentance, particularly if we give in to the vitriol and anger of the political process and sin against others.

Pray for our leaders

What is more, our baptismal calling asks us to see our government authorities, even those with whom we disagree, as people needing our prayers and respect. In fact, the apostle Paul reminds us of this:

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4, ESV)

As we continue in this pandemic context and enter into another political season, which will invariably be affected by these anxious times, we do so in the baptismal love and promises of our Lord Jesus Christ, heeding the call to pray for our governmental leaders, act in love toward our neighbor, and continue with our Lord in the desire for the salvation of all people through the bold proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Lucas

Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford

President

Minnesota South District, LCMS

Retrieved from mnsdistrict.org



Daily Devotions

1 July	Josh 6:6—27	Acts 10:18—33	
2 July	Josh 7:1—26	Acts 10:34—48	
3 July	Josh 8:1—28	Acts 11:1—18	
4 July	Josh 10:1—25	Acts 11:19—30	Josh 10:28—22:34
5 July	Josh 23:1—16	Acts 12:1—25	
6 July	Josh 24:1—31	Acts 13:1—12	Judge 1:1—36
7 July	Judg 2:6—23	Acts 13:13—41	
8 July	Judg 3:7—31	Acts 13:42—52	
9 July	Judg 4:1—24	Acts 14:1—18	Judge 5:1—31
10 July	Judg 6:1—24	Acts 14:19—15:5	
11 July	Judg 6:25—40	Acts 15:6—21	
12 July	Judg 7:1—23	Gal 1:1—24	Judge 7:24—12:15
13 July	Judg 13:1—25	Gal 2:1—21	Ruth 1:1—4:22
14 July	Judg 14:1—20	Gal 3:1—22	
15 July	Judg 15:1—16:3	Gal 3:23—4:11	
16 July	Judg 16:4—30	Gal 4:12—31	Judge 17:1—21:25
17 July	1 Sam 1:1—20	Gal 5:1—26	
18 July	1 Sam 1:21—2:17	Gal 6:1—18	
19 July	1 Sam 2:18—36	Acts 15:22—41	
20 July	1 Sam 3:1—21	Acts 16:1—22	
21 July	1 Sam 4:1—22	Acts 16:23—40	Acts 17:1—34
22 July	1 Sam 5:1—6:3, 10—16	Acts 18:1—11, 23—28	
23 July	1 Sam 6:19—7:17	Acts 19:1—22	Acts 19:23—21:14
24 July	1 Sam 8:1—22	Acts 21:15—36	
25 July	1 Sam 9:1—27	Acts 21:37—22:16	
26 July	1 Sam 10:1—27	Acts 22:17—29	
27 July	1 Sam 12:1—25	Acts 22:30—23:11	
28 July	1 Sam 13:1—18	Acts 23:12—35	
29 July	1 Sam 14:47—15:9	Acts 24:1—23	
30 July	1 Sam 15:10—35	Acts 24:24—25:12	
31 July	1 Sam 16:1—23	Acts 25:13—27	

July Celebrations

Birthdays

7 Zeke Green
8 Cory Brantner
9 Sheila Carlson
11 Jonathan Moss
11 Silas Green
13 Victoria Frein
14 Connie Fitzgerald
14 Jon Cleveland
16 Jerry Buelow
16 Carl Fox
16 Philip Hinz
17 Anna McGraw

Baptismal Anniversaries

1 Marcy Caspersen
2 Tricia Mack
11 Bob Tolzin
14 Kristen Melbostad
15 Madyson Ford
15 Samarah Ford
15 Sabrina Ford
17 Pastor Dan Ritter
21 Claire Woebke
28 Jerry Buelow
Dawn Vogland

Wedding Anniversaries

6 John & Karen Mack
6 Josh & Megan Adamek
10 Jerry & Kayla Kuhlman
11 Rev. John & Sue Stern
14 David & Jenn Schleifer



Sunday Worship Schedule

Services online during COVID19 shutdown

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

Christina Brantner

Music Director

Jennifer Adamek

Administrative Assistant

Kim Wuebke

Director of Preschool and Childcare

Administrative Assistant

Steve Sundseth

Custodian

Sam Killam

Custodian

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd

Bloomington, MN 55431

Address Service Requested

