

# Spirit of Hope

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Preschool and Childcare

July 2, 2020

***“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)***

Happy Fourth of July Week! We will focus on our citizenship this week, both in this newsletter and in our worship service. We are truly blessed and grateful to be living in a country where we can freely worship our One and Only King, Jesus. We are commanded to live as citizens of this country obeying the laws and following the leaders that the Lord has established. But we are at the same time, citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is interesting to think about our “dual citizenship” and how that impacts the way we live; we will explore that later in this newsletter.

Please contact the church office to get your spot to receive Holy Communion. If Thursdays do not work, please let Kim know what does and I will work you in.

As mentioned last week, several members of our leadership team met 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 morning, July 12 at 9:30**. There is more information in this newsletter. **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

# Message - Citizens of Two Kingdoms

As we get ready to celebrate our nation's birthday, it is a good time to remember our citizenship. On Saturday, July 4, 2020 many will be celebrating freedom and independence by attending parades (are there any this year?), family reunions, and backyard barbecues (while practicing social distancing). We should all give thanks for the many freedoms we enjoy and most particularly, our freedom to worship God.

As Christians we live in two kingdoms with one King. This is to say that we live in God's earthly kingdom where He provides secular authority for us in this world that includes daily provision and His created order. We inhabit this earthly kingdom with all people including those who do not share our beliefs.

God also rules the Church. "Because God's greatest desire for human beings is that we hear the Gospel and come to faith, this aspect of His work is sometimes called his 'right hand' reign, or 'the kingdom of the right'" (Mueller, 2005). Christ reigns in this kingdom by His Gospel and acts in this kingdom through His means of grace. We live in God's earthly created kingdom as well as the Lord's spiritually divine kingdom. We are citizens of two kingdoms.

**For the Lord's sake, accept all authority – the king as head of state, and the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish all who do wrong and to honor those who do right. It is God's will that your good lives should silence those who make foolish accusations against you. 1 Peter 2:13-15**

These words are our guide as Christian citizens of the United States and the following are our guide in living as citizens of God's heavenly Kingdom.

**Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments. Matthew 22:37-40**

Of course, there are times when it is difficult to live as citizens of two kingdoms. Our freedom, rights, and responsibilities may come in conflict. We know that ultimately, we must obey God rather than men. May we live boldly as citizens of two kingdoms.

**Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard. Acts 4:19**

May we always live as His ambassadors; telling others about the amazing Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!

Pastor Fran Green

# Return to In-Person Worship

**Sunday, July 12 @ 9:30am**

## **Reservations**

The guidelines provided to Places of Worship require Mount Hope to limit the number of participants meeting for worship. Please call the office between 9:00am-3:00pm on weekdays or email Kim at [church@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:church@mthopelutheran.org) to reserve a seat. Fifty participants will be allowed at this time.

## **Precautions/Procedures**

The doors will be opened fifteen minutes prior to the service. You will be ushered directly to a pew in the sanctuary. You will also be ushered from the sanctuary in order to maintain social distancing.

Masks will be required while in the building along with the following of social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitizing stations are located just inside the door. Please use on both your way in and out.

At this time, food and drink are not to be served in a communal setting such as our fellowship hour. We will need to wait a bit longer to enjoy fellowship time together with coffee and treats!

The building will be thoroughly cleaned and frequently-touched surfaces are sanitized regularly.

The bathrooms will be available for emergencies only. Maintain a six foot distance from others if you do need to use the restroom. The bathroom doors can be easily opened with the handicap accessibility buttons. No need to touch the door handles.

Offerings will be collected in a drop-box style cabinet. There will be no passing of the offering plates. Mount Hope will continue to offer communion on Thursdays instead of during the service. At this time, we will enjoy the singing of the music leaders only. You are welcome to hum along if you would like to participate.

Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews. There will be no bulletins, but all the information you need will be available on the screens.

At this time, congregation members will be limited to the narthex and the sanctuary. Any spaces used by the childcare, including the kitchen and Fellowship Hall are for the childcare only. The nursery must also be closed. Thank you for understanding.

## **Exclusions**

The guidelines state that any one experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or who has had recent exposure to a person with COVID-19 be excluded from participation. If a member of your household is experiencing symptoms, please stay home as well.

## **Symptoms of COVID-19**

New onset of coughing or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least two of the following: fever (100.4F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting or nausea. It is also recommended that you stay at home and consult a physician if you have a new symptom with no alternate diagnosis explaining it.

## **A Healthy Congregation**

You are encouraged to continue worshipping from home/online if you are in a high-risk group or do not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship at this time. Our prayer is that everyone remains healthy.

## 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 Woebke Director of Preschool and Childcare  
Administrative Assistant

Steve Sundseth Custodian

Sam Killam Custodian

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Address Service Requested

