

Spirit of Hope

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Preschool and Childcare

September 30, 2020

Message from Pastor Fran Green

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him." Philippians 2:13 NLT

In our adult connecting hour yesterday, we continued our look at the book *Shaped by God's Heart*. The book challenges all followers of Jesus to live lives of purpose and on mission for the Lord. The sessions on this book lay the foundation and the 'Why?' for us to move into the next classes, Class 401 *Discovering My Life Mission*. This will be an exciting time to learn and grow as God's people, His image-bearers in the world. These studies are also available on YouTube Mt. Hope Lutheran Church channel.

I know that the pandemic is wearing us down. I went back and looked at the newsletter we sent out when we first went into the lockdown with all of the restrictions, most of which are still in place back in mid-March. Let's continue to pray for, encourage, and build each other up as we press on. I'm including a couple of paragraphs from that first letter that I think are worth repeating.

Think C.A.L.M. Early one morning this week while I was out praying and walking the dog, CALM came to me. I think it is a nice reminder as I was thinking Christ Always Loves Me. Yes, those true words can most certainly help CALM our anxious hearts.

"This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." 1 John 4:10

We have been talking about the habits of growing disciples in our Bible study on Sunday mornings. What a great opportunity for us to grow! Let us be in God's word each day, let us all be prayer warriors (Members of the Mount Hope Prayer Force), and let us be generous givers. Jesus told us that wherever two or more are gathered together in His name, He is there also. We have the opportunity to grow stronger as a church by growing our devotion to God in our homes. This is an opportunity to grow in our relationships with those in our own families and perhaps even inviting a neighbor to join you in your "Home Church". Now, you could also invite them to join you in worship either in-person or online.

Our in-person worship service will continue at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. Our numbers have slowly gotten larger, but we are still within safe parameters to remain at less than 50% capacity.

We will continue to offer private communion on Wednesdays. Please contact the church office to get your spot to receive Holy Communion, Wednesday, September 30. If Wednesday does not work, please let Kim know what does and I will work you in.

RightNow Media is active again. Our current subscription for Mount Hope runs through December 15. Please let us know if you are currently using the service and for those who are not please check it out. There are Bible studies for many books of the Bible, topical studies, and even movies available. In the interim we will be evaluating whether we will continue with the service in 2021.

We are slowly, with caution and safety, offering more of our “regular” church activities. The decisions on all of this are difficult, as we would love to do more, but we desire to error on the side of caution. Thank you for your patience and support and thank you to all of you who are worshiping with us each week in-person and online.

Thank you also for all of your prayers, God is faithful!

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

Pastor Fran Green

Sunday's Message

September 27, 2020

I AM THE GREATEST!! What immediately comes to your mind when you hear those words? Of course, you may be thinking, "You are losing it man!" But I imagine that many will think of Muhammad Ali. A quick Google search of "I am the greatest" offers these results, 5 pages on Muhammad Ali and only on the sixth page and following do things other than Ali show up.

HUMILITY! Seemingly, not part a big part of Muhammad Ali's life, not usually a part of our nature either? Certainly, not part of our sinful nature. It is all about ME, or I. *"Do not be selfish; do not try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves."* *Philippians 2:3* Humility defined – State of being humble. Not proud or arrogant. Feeling of insignificance.

Philippians (History is fascinating) is thought to be one of the last of Paul's letters. Written when he was under house arrest in Rome around AD 60-61. It is clearly a late letter summarizing many of his thoughts. Joy is clearly present in the writing. Paul and Silas traveled to Macedonia, which included the urban center of Philippi on Paul's second missionary journey (AD 49-51). You can read it in Acts 16, this is where Paul and Silas are thrown in prison for "turning the world upside down" working against the decrees of Caesar. Proclaiming Jesus as King. The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians so that they live in the true faith, grow in love and find joy in any situation.

It is a thank you letter and Paul's love for and joy he has in this church/group of people is clear. He describes the joy of Christian Life and all the blessings that come from the Lord's work in us.

Philippians 2:1-5 states that the church is to be of one mind

- 1) United by love
- 2) Humility
- 3) Looking out for others

Turn to Philippians 2:5-11 and follow along. Our Philippians reading is a transition from urging/exhorting the people how to live moving to an illustration. An example from the greatest life ever lived! "Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." Philippians 2:4-5 Paul presents a command to think with your mind as Jesus thought with His. Life is to be lived for God. Live in your identity. The identity that is yours in Jesus. Sometimes Lutherans get wrapped up in the language here. You know, sounds a lot like works, or ME doing something to earn my salvation. We are saved-a regenerated soul. But it is passive, because of who we are in Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Word, we are to "THINK LIKE JESUS."

Now we move to verses 6-8. The volume of writings/commentaries/articles on this passage is enormous. It is remarkably interesting reading. The place where there is nearly unanimous agreement is in naming the rest of the reading (6-11) being an early Hymn. One of our own LCMS Scholars went as far as saying that this is the earliest piece of Christian writing, we have even earlier than the Gospels. *READ V. 6 "Though he was God, he did not think*

of equality with God as something to cling to.” Not simply “appears” as later Gnostics would claim. He is Fully God He cannot be anything less. John 14:9, Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

John 5:18, “For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” Jesus is Fully God!

*Read V. 7 “Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.” Taking the form of a slave. Not using what is at His disposal. He laid it aside for others. Quite a radical concept HUH? He does not empty Himself or somehow get rid of His Divine Nature. That CANNOT BE CHANGED. It is who He is. Martin Luther explained it thus: *He laid it aside (Divine Nature) kept it concealed in the state of his humiliation, and did not always use it, but only when he wanted to.* He was fully man yet did not sin. Galatians 4:4-5, “When the time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” This is good stuff here!*

READ V. 8 “When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.” Jesus’ humiliation/humbling Himself even to the point of death! Jesus put all His thoughts, words, and actions under the direction of the Father’s Will. That is true greatness! Jesus shows us that greatness comes through sacrifice and giving of oneself. “Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” Matthew 20:26 United by love, in humility, and, looking out for others.

READ V. 14, “Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure...” Then Paul ends this section at verse 18 with these words, “So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. Don’t grumble, be glad and rejoice in your sacrificial service. Impossible? I suppose it is. I want to be great! Philippians 2:13, For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. The Lord helps us. He helps us first, to will. He creates the desire within us, to want to love and serve our neighbor. He also, empowers us to act, to live out those desires to sacrificially love and serve our neighbor.

Matthew 20:25-27, “Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Amen.

October Celebrations

Birthdays

1 David Schleifer
2 Suzanne Hedensten
2 Mike Roehrick
6 Sam Killam
7 Rev Ralph Rokke
7 Kelly Rosner
10 Sue Stern
11 Eileen Daak
11 Marie Lumives
24 Olivia Woebke
28 Tim Mack
28 Crystal Winkleman
29 Cody Borgen

Baptismal Anniversaries

2 Bob Melbostad
5 Ashley Cleveland
6 Kirsten Buelow
10 Suzanne Hedensten
11 Eileen Daak
13 Alex Woodhall
23 Conrad Nelson
23 Riyu Brantner
25 Kaylee Lumives
25 Brady McMullen
25 Kate McMullen
28 Marie Lumives
29 David Schleifer
31 Al Borgen

Wedding Anniversaries

7 Steve & Vicki Schmidt
10 Jeff & Faith Alt
11 Randy & Debbie Lingen
20 Gordy & Ramona Moss
22 Gene & Pat Roehrick

Wednesday Communion

Pastor Fran will continue to offer in person communion on Wednesdays at Mount Hope in the sanctuary. Make your appointment from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Appointments are 15 minutes apart allowing for a visit of approximately 10 minutes. Please call the office at 952-888-5059 between 9:00 am-3:00 pm to set an appointment. You can also email your request to church@mthopelutheran.org.

For your safety and for the safety of the Center families and the staff, we will be using the East door. There will be hand sanitizer available at the entrance. We also ask that social distancing practices are followed and that masks are worn if at all possible. You will be able to drop off your offering and LWML Mites offering and pick up a Portals of Prayer as well. You will not have access to the rest of the building at this time. Thank you for respecting these guidelines. Pastor will follow safety protocols when preparing the wine and wafer for communion.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given to beautify our church. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday either sign up in the information hallway bulletin board or call Karen Mack 952-831-7428. October 4th Altar flowers were given by Dan and Jennifer Adamek to bring the beauty of God's creation to our worship.

Church Library

Check out our great selection of books in the church library. So many books to choose from! Fiction and Non-Fiction. There are Christian love stories, mysteries, books of hope and relationships, autobiographies, bibles, and bible studies to choose from. Browse and pick books to read, return them when you are finished. It's that simple! You do not need to check them out, just return them when you are finished.

Book Club

Book Club will be meeting this week on Thursday, October 1st at 10 am at Renata Melby's house. Her address is 10727 Zenith Ave S in Bloomington. Depending on the weather we may be inside or out. We will be discussing the book "Educated". For November we will be reading and discussing the book "Animal Farm". For December our read will be "American Dirt".

Thank You

I want to sincerely thank Pastor Fran and everyone else for the prayers, cards, and well wishes in regards to my recent hip replacement surgery. Everything went very well and I'm feeling nearly fully recovered. Many thanks also to my great nurse Dianne and family.

Pastor Dan Ritter

Operation Christmas Child-Shoeboxes

Hello Mount Hope Family,
As you may know, Mount Hope has been putting together shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child for many years. This year is no exception. Actually, with the state of the world due to the coronavirus pandemic, shoeboxes are needed more than ever to spread the word and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are planning to pack 51 well packed boxes to do just so!

We have been collecting here and there since last year's boxes were donated, so we already have a hefty inventory of items, but there is still a list of needs. So, from **October 1st - November 1st** there will be a box set out at church for collections.

Here is a list of the items still needed:

- *46 jars of play doh (\$2.99 for 6 or .55 cents each at Target)
 - *40 coloring books (\$1 at Dollar Tree - they usually have religious ones)
 - *14 notebooks - spiral or composition (spiral are .25 at Walmart)
 - *26 toothbrush covers (Dollar Tree sells packs)
 - *20 small scissors
(Five Below had well priced 2 packs, last year I got deals at Walmart)
 - *51 washcloths (supposedly Walmart is the cheapest)
 - *41 small bars of soap
 - *pony tail holders
 - *50 combs/brushes
 - *100-1 gallon size Ziplock bags
- *Gift cards to: Target, Walmart or Dollar Tree
*Donations for shipping costs (51 boxes x \$9) - checks can be made out to Mount Hope Lutheran Church with a note of: shoebox ministry.

Thank you so much! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask!

Carrie Newton - your Shoebox Ministry lead

mrscaarienewton@gmail.com

612-750-9956



Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30am In-Person Worship

Services online at
www.mthopelutheran.org

Phone: 952-888-5059

E-mail: church@mthopelutheran.org

Website: www.mthopelutheran.org

Youtube Channel: Mt. Hope Lutheran
Church

Mount Hope's Staff

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Sam Killam	Custodian

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Address Service Requested

