

# Spirit of Hope

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Preschool and Childcare

October 28, 2020

## Message from Pastor Fran Green

*“Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God – which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13 NLT*

We continue to see that the power of the Gospel message was and is evident whenever and wherever it is shared. Paul tells the Thessalonians and **he is telling the same to us**, that they are somebody, they are part of the family of God. Further, they are to be somebody to someone else. Please see the enclosed message from yesterday for more. Also, the entire worship service is available on our website, [mthopelutheran.org/sermons](http://mthopelutheran.org/sermons).

In our adult connecting hour (10:30), we continued our CLASS 401, *Discovering My Life Mission*. This exciting and challenging study will lead us as we discover our mission in the world. We have moved on to thinking about our own story, the faith journey that we have lived. In thinking about sharing, it is good for us to ponder *what difference has Jesus made in my life?* In other words, why am I a Christian? *“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” 1 Peter 3:15 NLT* We are excited to learn and grow in our witness to a hurting and broken world that desperately needs Jesus. **Due to copyright issues**, we cannot put these out on our YouTube page. Please let us know if you would like to participate and are not attending on Sundays so that we may provide copies of the sessions. **I continue to present our challenge prayer** during this study that I would encourage all of us to be praying-**OFTEN**-is that the Lord will bring people into our lives who need to hear the HOPE that we have in the Lord Jesus. May we all pray for opportunities to share our faith in Jesus!

We continue to offer private communion on **Wednesdays and now Thursday mornings** as well. Please contact the church office to get your spot to receive Holy Communion, Wednesday, October 28 or 29 between 10:00-1:00. If either day does not work, please let Kim know what does and I will work you in.

Planning ahead:

We will be offering an in-person Thanksgiving worship service on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30pm. We will also record and add the service to all of our other worship services on our webpage and YouTube channel.

**Beginning December 2**, we will offer Advent services each Wednesday evening at 6:30. We will be using a series titled, *Prepare Ye*, authored by Concordia St. Paul professor Reed Lessing. Each week will focus on a theme, ponder, pray, praise and proclaim through this enriching seasonal series preparing us to receive the Savior. *In this weekly series for Advent, we contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child*

*on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord's birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love.*

And speaking of Christmas, we are discussing possible options for worshipping our Savior on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. More information to follow.

As always, thank you for your patience and support during these challenging times and thank you to all of you who are worshipping with us each week in-person and online.

Thank you also for all of your prayers, please keep them coming. God is faithful!  
We are Mount Hope, *Where Guests become Friends, Friends become Family!*  
Pastor Fran Green

# Sunday's Message

*October 25, 2020*

One of my favorite authors and speakers is Zig Ziglar. Are any of you familiar with him? I've been blessed to see him in person and have read many of his books; he was a champion of motivation and living a purposeful, God-centered life.

Zig used to tell a story about a trip to Acapulco...Anyone familiar with the story? Imagine your closest friend giving you a call one morning and telling you, "I have four tickets for a free trip to Acapulco, my wife and I are going, we leave tomorrow morning and we will spend four marvelous days there being treated as royalty, staying in the finest resort, experiencing the finest entertainment, the best dining and all the perks, all expenses paid, all you need to do is show up in the morning bags packed and ready to go meeting us at the airport. Are you able to go; can you be there?"

You present the opportunity to your spouse (if you have one) and they say, "Absolutely!" And immediately you both spring into action. Would you be able and ready to go if it were you? Most of us could take the necessary action and get ourselves ready for such a trip. Why? Because we would be motivated to take action!

David Peter, professor and Dean of Faculty at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis describes this section of 1 Thessalonians 2 as **Fatherly Encouragement toward Motivation**. The apostle Paul is encouraging the young church of Thessalonica to continue the mission that he began in their midst. I think that sometimes Christians think about carrying out the mission of our Lord much like a trip to the dentist. Necessary, but certainly not our favorite thing to do and definitely not like dropping everything for a trip to Acapulco. Now, of course there are challenges and difficulties, but he is saying that this is our privilege and honor and there is joy in serving our Lord.

Let's look a little closer at our reading from 1 Thessalonians 2

**The task of mission is to declare the gospel of God.**

*"You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition." (1-2)*

1. God's mission is to declare the good news centered in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul is not acting as one seeking money or personal ambition.

2. Our mission is one of good news centered in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**The motivation for mission is from love.**

*"So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery. For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else." (3-6)*

There are many impure motives to carry out God's mission.

1. Paul's appeal did not arise from error, impurity, deception, people-pleasing, flattery, greed, or personal glory.

One scholar offers: *Few temptations assail the preacher more strongly than this one to please men, even if God is not pleased, though with the dim hope that God will after all condone or overlook. Nothing but experience will convince some preachers how fickle is popular favor and how often it is at the cost of failure to please God.*

2. Our motives for doing the Lord's work should not be self-serving.

**The right motivation for mission derives from genuine love.**

*"As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too." (7-8)*

1. Paul was moved to minister to the Thessalonians by his affection for them and their endearment to him.

*"Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you. You yourselves are our witnesses – and so is God – that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. We pleaded with you, encouraged you, urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory." (9-12)*

2. Paul modeled ministry and mission that was rightly motivated.
3. Our service is motivated by God's love to us and through us to others.

**The result of mission is the reception of the life-giving word of God.**

*"Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God – which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe." (13)*

1. The Thessalonians received the word of God which worked in them faith and service.

2. We continue to gladly hear and learn God's word and share it with others. In fact, we have talked about this in our adult Bible study and in particular when discussing the book *Shaped by God's Heart*; God's Word does shape us and empower us to care about the things God cares about. To be moved by our love for Him and to love and serve our neighbors.

Five frogs are sitting on a log, four decide to jump off; how many are left on the log? ONE...? No, Five, all they did was decide and deciding is not doing, a decision is not ACTION! Silly? Perhaps, but there a point here in that intentions, even good intentions to the point of making a decision still fall short. We need ACTION! Paul is talking about action today. He is actually motivating the Thessalonians to ACTION. We have made a decision to be a part of God's Mission. Every week in closing our service with our vision statement we express our desire to reach our friends and neighbors with the Truth, Love, and Hope of Jesus.

You are somebody! Jesus gave His life for you and His grace is poured upon you as we live by faith. It's a tremendous gift. You are also somebody to someone. Who is there in your life right now, needing to hear this message? Our Gospel for today, the Great Commandment, tells us to love the Lord our God with all you heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as our self. May we live a life of sacrifice and love for our neighbor.

Closing poem:

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one, any day;*

*I'd rather one would walk with me than merely show me the way;*

*The eye's a better pupil, more willing than the ear;*

*Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.*

Author unknown

# November Celebrations

1 Jeremiah Moss  
2 Mary Mack  
2 Vern Von Deylen  
8 Hope Berg  
13 Betty Schleifer  
16 Sabrina Ford  
17 Kevin Wuebke  
20 Madyson Ford  
20 Samarah Ford  
23 Shirley Favorit  
24 Arlene Schmidt  
24 Pastor Fran Green  
26 Katie Jacob  
27 Drew Adamek  
28 Rose Kitt  
29 Janelle Roehrick  
30 Colin Alt  
30 Lea Fox

## **Baptismal Anniversaries**

8 Sue Stern  
11 Vern Von Deylen  
15 Christina Brantner  
15 Jack Melbostad  
22 Rev Ralph Rokke  
22 Kelly Rosner  
23 Tim Mack  
23 Jeremiah Moss  
29 Cody Borgen  
30 Olivia Wuebke

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

22 Armand & Marjule Boehnke

# Announcements

## 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. November 1<sup>st</sup> altar flowers were given by Conrad and Marilyn Nelson in thankfulness for His many blessings.

## HYMN Bible Study

Our next Hymn Bible Study for ladies will be on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room at Mt. Hope. Please read and complete Month 3-Weeks 1-4, before the get together. We will complete Week 5 and the Monthly Reflection as a group.

## Book Club

Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 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 reading and discussing the book "Animal Farm". For December our read will be "American Dirt".

## VEAP Donations

A delivery of 71 lbs of donated food items was made to VEAP this past week. This brings our food donations this year to 359 lbs. We will continue to receive donated food items and/or monetary donations as you are led. Place your non-perishable goods by the green shelf in the narthex. monetary donations may go in Karen Mueller's mailbox at church. We will continue to receive Covid 19, high demand items for VEAP, such as paper towels, toilet paper, disinfectant wipes, hand and body soaps, face masks, sanitizer and vinyl gloves, laundry soap, and shampoo. There is a box at each entrance to collect these items. Thank you, Karen Mueller

## Action - Sharing Jesus' Love through October

Consider what it would be like to be a first responder-facing danger every day. Say a prayer each morning thanking God for these selfless servants and ask God's protection for them.

October is fire safety month, consider sending your fire station thank you cards and/or baked treats.

From Mt. Hope's Prayer Ministry:

It's Pastor Appreciation Month and we want to thank God for Pastor Fran. Do pray that God would grant him good health, both physical and spiritual and keep him safe from the influence of the evil one. Also, ask God to give him a heart of compassion toward those he leads and serves. May God continue to bless Pastor Fran and his ministry at Mt. Hope.

# 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 still need \$150ish for shipping costs. The deadline for donations is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Come and pack the Operation Child shoeboxes at church Thursday, November 5th from 6:00-7:00 pm in the gym. Masks are required, there will be gloves available if anyone needs them. Please call Carrie if you would like to come. We'll have to top the number of volunteers at 12.

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

Carrie Newton - your Shoebox Ministry lead

[mrs-carriewton@gmail.com](mailto:mrs-carriewton@gmail.com)

612-750-9956



### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:30am In-Person Worship

Services online at

[www.mthopelutheran.org](http://www.mthopelutheran.org)

**Phone:** 952-888-5059

**E-mail:** [church@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:church@mthopelutheran.org)

**Website:** [www.mthopelutheran.org](http://www.mthopelutheran.org)

**Youtube Channel:** Mt. Hope Lutheran  
Church

### **Mount Hope's Staff**

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