

Spirit of Hope

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Preschool and Childcare

November 4, 2020

Message from Pastor Fran Green

“For ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!’ But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, ‘LORD, who has believed our message?’ So, faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.” Romans 10:13-17 NLT

In our adult connecting hour (10:30), we continued our CLASS 401, *Discovering My Life Mission*. We began with this quote by Sam Williams, *Evangelism is helping people discover how God is already at work in their lives*. We are called to join Jesus on His mission to save a lost world. *“Jesus said, ‘Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.’” Mark 16:15 (NCV)*

It is our joy and privilege to engage in the mission of our Lord. We talked about this in relation to our purpose in the message yesterday based upon *1 Thessalonians 4:1-12*. Each and every one of us are called to love and serve our neighbor in the ways the Lord has gifted us. The greatest of all love is to share the Hope that we have in Jesus. Please see the enclosed message from yesterday for more. Also, the entire worship service is available on our website, mthopelutheran.org/sermons.

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 or Thursday, November 4 and 5 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 pm. 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

November 1, 2020

I've shared a few of our adventure stories with you about our dog Lucky. I feel like I've learned a lot about life and even faith through having dogs, what about you?

Well, you may remember that our dog Lucky is a rescue, we adopted her from a local rescue organization, and we didn't know a lot about her when we got her other than she had been in three different homes with three different names prior to coming home with us. One can only imagine her confusion and she was labeled, "a problem, or high energy/destructive" dog. It seemed pretty clear to us that she was simply being a dog and that she has never had a chance to live as one.

Lucky settled into the rhythm of our family's routine and has been one of our best dogs. She's very well-mannered, she listens and is probably the quietest dog we've ever had. Imagine our surprise one day when she became very excited and began running back and forth between two different spots she lays while baying. You know, the howling/barking that hounds make? We had never seen her so worked up! I jumped up and went to look outside and noticed a red fox wandering through our backyard. Lucky came alive! She had connected with

the very purpose of her existence. Although a mixed breed dog; she looks like and the veterinarian stated she is predominantly a fox hound. In other words, she had discovered the reason she was born.

Now unfortunately she doesn't have many encounters with fox, I guess it's too bad that we aren't fox hunters. Just a few days ago, while out back behind our home I was out with Lucky. I happened to see the fox out in the bean field probably on an early morning hunt, but Lucky did not see it. We walked in the direction of the fox until Lucky picked up the scent and she was gone. It was so fun to see her come alive and get to work.

In many ways, I think **Paul is encouraging us to come alive**; to discover your God-given purpose and get busy.

This sermon is the third in a series, entitled "Fatherly Encouragement," based on texts from 1 Thessalonians. (David Peter, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) In this epistle the Apostle Paul encourages the Christians of Thessalonica who are young in the faith. The theme for today's theme is based on 1 Thessalonians 3:11–4:12. David Peter titles this section, **Fatherly Encouragement toward Sanctification**.

For the past few weeks, we've been following *Philippians* and *1 Thessalonians* guided by two questions; *Who am I?* and *Why am I here?* In various ways, Paul has reminded us that we are part of God's family because of Jesus, in other words, *You are somebody*. And because of that you have a purpose, an answer to *Why am I here?* *You are somebody to someone*. God's people are called to love the Lord and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Sanctification is God's will for how we live and is empowered by him.

Every parent has hopes for their children. We want our kids to grow up to be responsible and productive adults. Parents provide guidance and encouragement to their children regarding how they are to live.

The Apostle Paul considered the Christians at Thessalonica to be his spiritual children. He was like a father to them. Appropriately, he had hopes for them—that they grow in the will of the Lord. Paul states frankly, "*This is the will of God, your sanctification*" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

God's desire is for our sanctification as well. The text today gives us guidance and encouragement regarding how we are to live sanctified lives. What is sanctification?

The Work of the Holy Spirit (Small Catechism)

The Holy Spirit sanctifies me (makes me holy) by bringing me to faith in Christ, so that I might have the blessings of redemption and lead a godly life (sanctification in the wide sense).

1 Corinthians 6:11, "You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

The word sanctification is used in two ways:

- 1. The wide sense – the whole work of the Holy Spirit by which He brings us to faith and also enables us to lead a godly life.*

1 Corinthians 2:14, "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:3, "Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit."

- 2. The narrow sense – that part of the Holy Spirit's work by which He directs and empowers the believer to lead a godly life.*

1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The means of sanctification is the Lord Himself. *1 Thessalonians 3:12, "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."*

A. The Lord empowers us to increase and abound in love for others. *v. 13, "May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones."*

B. The Lord establishes us blameless in holiness before God.

I. The meaning of sanctification is to please God in how we live.

A. Paul is concerned with sanctification, or "how we ought to live"

1 Thessalonians 4:1, "As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how-to live-in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more."

B. Sanctification is a process – “as you are doing” – and involves progress— “more and more”.

C. Sanctification is God’s will for us, and it pleases Him. (4:1, 3) *“We instructed you how-to live-in order to please God. It is God’s will that you should be sanctified. “*

D. Sanctification is only possible through union with Christ — “in the Lord Jesus...through the Lord Jesus” (4:1–2).

II. The modes of sanctification involve morality and ethics.

A. Sanctification involves sexual purity (4:3–8).

B. Sanctification involves brotherly charity (4:9–10).

C. Sanctification involves civil productivity (4:11–12).

I think it is hard to look at a list of “NOT TO-DOs”. That’s the way many view our faith. But, what about the positive? **V. 10 “And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more...”** That is what we are created to do. We each have our place, our mission and our gifting. Just like Lucky, we come alive when we are living out our purpose! It is NOT a burden; it is pure joy. You and I were made for it!! Amen

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 8th altar flowers were given by Steve Oberlander--in memory of his wife, Fran for her birthday.

HYMN Bible Study

Our next Hymn Bible Study for ladies will be on Tuesday, November 17th 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 5th 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

On Monday, Nov. 2nd additional food items, and Covid-19 product were delivered to VEAP. 100 lbs. of food and pandemic items, including 45 rolls of toilet paper, 6 pkts. sanitized hand wipes, 2 jugs of hand sanitizer, and 2 pkts. of personal hygiene items. The two boxes of color crayons were passed on to the Shoebox Ministry, Operation Christmas Child. Our total for 2020 so far has reached 459 lbs. Thank you so much for your participation. We will be doing this on an ongoing basis, as you continue to support this cause. Thank you-Karen Mueller

Action - Sharing Jesus' Love through November

Use the month of November to work with your local Veterans' Administration (VA) hospital to see what patients need in the way of clothing or other items.

Learn more about ministering to veterans at the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces page.

www.lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces

You may also wish to provide audio Military BibleSticks to active service members.

You are Invited to: VEAP's 2020 Virtual Gala



VEAP's Annual Gala "Nourishing Connections" will be held virtually

Friday, November 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Join us for a fun evening online with one-of-a-kind auction items, musical entertainment and more, all in support of ending hunger and housing instability in our community. You'll learn how we're supporting others and creating connections that nourish and strengthen people living in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and South Minneapolis.

Learn more about Emcee: Jearlyn Steele and why we're thrilled she'll be emceeing for VEAP's Gala.



Individual ticket price: Free to stream on Facebook and YouTube. Silent auction link and official event URLs will be sent prior to event via email. There will be ample financial opportunities to support our work during the event.

Please contact Kari Thompson at karit@veap.org or call 952.955.8310.

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

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