



# Spirit of Hope

## Mount Hope Lutheran Church

### April 21, 2021

**“It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things.” Luke 24:47-48**

We again looked at resurrection appearances of Jesus in our worship service on Sunday. It is truly amazing, that the disciples and early followers of Jesus, witnesses, struggled to believe that Jesus did actually rise, conquering death. The gospels are very clear that Jesus rose from the dead and proved it to His disciples and followers.

Of course, many did come to belief and trust in Jesus finally “getting it”, but only after Jesus, *opened their minds to understand the Scriptures*. We see the results and we see the mission of Jesus continuing in the book of Acts. The disciples and early followers of Jesus would change the world by the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through them.

What is equally and perhaps more amazing, is that we too are called to be a part of this mission of Jesus. Each and every follower of Jesus plays a part in putting Jesus on display and declaring His rule and reign. We are called to love and serve Him by loving our neighbors as ourselves. And just as with the disciples, we cannot do this on our own; we too operate by the power of God’s Holy Spirit. That is truly exciting for us to ponder. The full message is included in this newsletter.

As we move into our second year of COVID-19 challenges, we are slowly working to resume “normal” practices. We do plan to continue for the month of April our **worship times of 8:30 and 10:45**. We are hopeful that another in-person option will allow more to return to church as more are vaccinated and many resume pre-COVID activities. **We are again having Bible study between services, 9:30-10:30 (more info below).**

**NOTE the change in times.** We have changed the first service worship time to begin at 8:30. We are doing this since our services are consistently running 45 minutes or less, which means that those attending early service that also want to stay for Bible study will have 30 minutes or so to wait. Changing the time should provide a better flow to our mornings and eliminate the long wait period. Thank you, as always, for being flexible as we work to return to our new normal.

We understand and support each individual decision and comfort level with being in public spaces. Corona virus is still a threat and appears that it will continue to be for some time.

Invite a guest to join us in person at 8:30 or 10:45 each Sunday or via live streaming on our YouTube page [Mount Hope Lutheran Church - YouTube](#) or catch it at a later time either on our website [mthopelutheran.org](#) or call for a DVD copy. Remember, there are a lot of people “out there” who need to hear the Good News of Jesus.

**In Bible study for next Sunday, April 25**, we will conclude the introduction to Ray Vander Laan’s new study titled, *Cultures in Conflict*. This is a very timely look at how the apostle Paul engaged a culture with a

worldview that conflicted with his own. We have already had some wonderful and fruitful discussions. We will be working through the entire *Cultures in Conflict* study beginning mid-May.

**For the first two weeks in May, the vision team will be leading a Bible study** while also sharing the work it has done for nearly the past two years. This will be a wonderful opportunity to join in the conversation around the identity of Mount Hope and the work that the Lord has called us to. It is an exciting time to be the church!

**Finally**, we are planning on returning to a once-per-month newsletter. We will mail a hard copy of the sermon from Sunday and any other information that you might want to those who are unable to attend worship or access online.

***Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57***

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

Serving together,

Pastor Fran Green

## April 18, 2021 Sunday Message

Think back to a time when you were first given charge of a situation or you were left alone to accomplish something. Like perhaps, the first time you were given the car keys and allowed to go all by yourself on a drive. What was that experience like?

I would imagine we've all had experiences like this. One of those experiences for me happened during basic training in the Air Force. Our flight had made it through the first few weeks of constant, in your face, sometimes literally, instruction and training. Well, there came a point when we did not drill, PT, and those things one might think of as part of basic training.

After we had learned some about military life, we were assigned other things at times. One evening, our TI (training instructor), assigned many from our flight "missions" that we would do the next day. We were broken into a number of squads that each was assigned a squad leader to lead the group to and back from the work of the day.

I was assigned squad leader of one of those groups. Now of course, our TI stressed very clearly that we were representing Flight 357 and that we better do a good job. Make sure you're on the lookout for officers and salute them properly, don't stray from the route you are given to travel and so forth.

I was terrified! Maybe that's a bit strong; but, I was very worried that I would somehow mess up and get myself and my squad in trouble. (*Can't you go with us?*) We would probably get disciplined, maybe we wouldn't be able to graduate. On and on it went...Well, everything went fine. We went to a memorial area on base that had a couple of static aircraft displays and a few plaques and monuments. Our job was to pick up trash and to clean/polish the monuments. Can you imagine how much actual work there was to do? NOT MUCH!! 😊 That park probably had squads marching there and doing what we were doing every single day of the year! But we made it back and the mission was successful.

It would seem that the **disciples had a similar**, although a much greater fear and concern over thinking they were now left all alone, now that Jesus is gone. Let's look at what happens following our gospel reading for today:

**“Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting up his hands to heaven, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.” Luke 24:50-51**

Now what?! Put yourself in the disciples' shoes for a moment. They had spent three years with Jesus. They had been on some incredible missions together. They had witnessed and even participated in many of them. Clearly, Jesus is a prophet; there is no doubt that He came from God.

But, the excitement and joy that they felt was all taken away. Jesus died. And yet, He appeared to them. He assured them, we hear in the gospel reading again today, that He has risen from the dead. This is the plan that the Lord God has had all along. I am the one written about in the prophets and in the *Psalms*. **Jesus opened their minds** to understand the Scriptures.

**“It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things.” Luke 24:47-48**

This is so exciting! Yes, Jesus, we do see you. Yes, Jesus, we do understand the Scriptures now! They do point to you! They do proclaim Your mission! We can't wait to see how You will accomplish the rest of it.

We need to go to *Luke vol. II* for the answer to that. Of course, *Luke vol. II*, is the book of *Acts* or *Acts of the Apostles*. Actually, *Acts of the Holy Spirit*, but let's not get ahead of ourselves here.

**“In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:1-2**

Luke reminds us again of the last part of his Gospel that Jesus appeared the disciples and proved to them that He was actually alive. He told them about the Kingdom of God and He told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait for further instructions.

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8,**

What?!! That's the plan?!! That's a little bit bigger than marching a detail to the other side of the base to clean a park and monuments that don't need cleaning wouldn't you say? This is impossible Jesus! How could this possibly happen? Can't you come with us?

What was the disciple's response? Let's go back to **Luke 24:52-53, “So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. They were filled with JOY! And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God. Filled with joy and praising God! What an amazing response.”**

We know that the power Jesus promised did come at Pentecost. And the book of *Acts* tells the amazing story of the continuation of Jesus' mission by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Jesus says, “Whoever believes, will do even greater works than these.”* We have been given the authority and power to influence the world for Christ. **Jesus is calling each and every one of us** into the mission. This is not some meaningless detail on the other side of the base. This is the life-changing work of the Lord!

**Acts 2:38-39, Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away – all who have been called by the Lord our God.”** Have you been called? Baptized? YES! Jesus is calling and sending each of us, just as He did the apostles.

There are many places in the Scriptures that tell of the church living out the mission of Jesus. I’d like to share just one this morning that gives us a bit more detail in living our callings by the Holy Spirit. **Philippians 2:12-17, “Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. *Work hard* to show the results of your salvation, *obeying God* with deep reverence and fear. *For God is working in you*, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, *shining like bright lights* in a world full of crooked and perverse people. *Hold firmly* to the word of life, then, on the day of Christ’s return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, *just like your faithful service is an offering to God*. And I want all of you to share that joy. Yes, *you should rejoice*, and I will share your joy.”**

To make much of Jesus, to proclaim His reign! AMEN.

As always, we will make our service available online. If you are not comfortable with attending at this time or are part of a high-risk population, the safest place for you is in your home.

To Watch LIVE: Youtube: [Mount Hope Lutheran Church - YouTube](#)

To Watch After on the WEB:

Youtube: [Mount Hope Lutheran Church - YouTube](#)

Facebook: [Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN | Facebook](#)

Instagram: on your phone at Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Website: [Mount Hope Lutheran Church – Minneapolis, MN \(mthopelutheran.org\)](http://mthopelutheran.org)

# Announcements

## Altar Flowers

The new 2021 Flower Calendar is up on the bulletin board in the information hallway. Please sign up for a date that you would like to recognize a special date or want to beautify the church. The arrangements are \$30.-Make your check payable to The Women of Hope and place it and your dedication in Karen Mack's mailbox or call her at 952-831-7428. There are many spots available to choose from. Sign up today!

Flowers given on Sunday, April 18 are given by Renata Melby--in celebration of 3 family birthdays in April.

## VEAP REPORT

Our March Food and Fund drive donations were delivered to VEAP on Thursday April 15th. There was an extremely long line of cars there picking up food. I was the only vehicle in line to donate at the time.

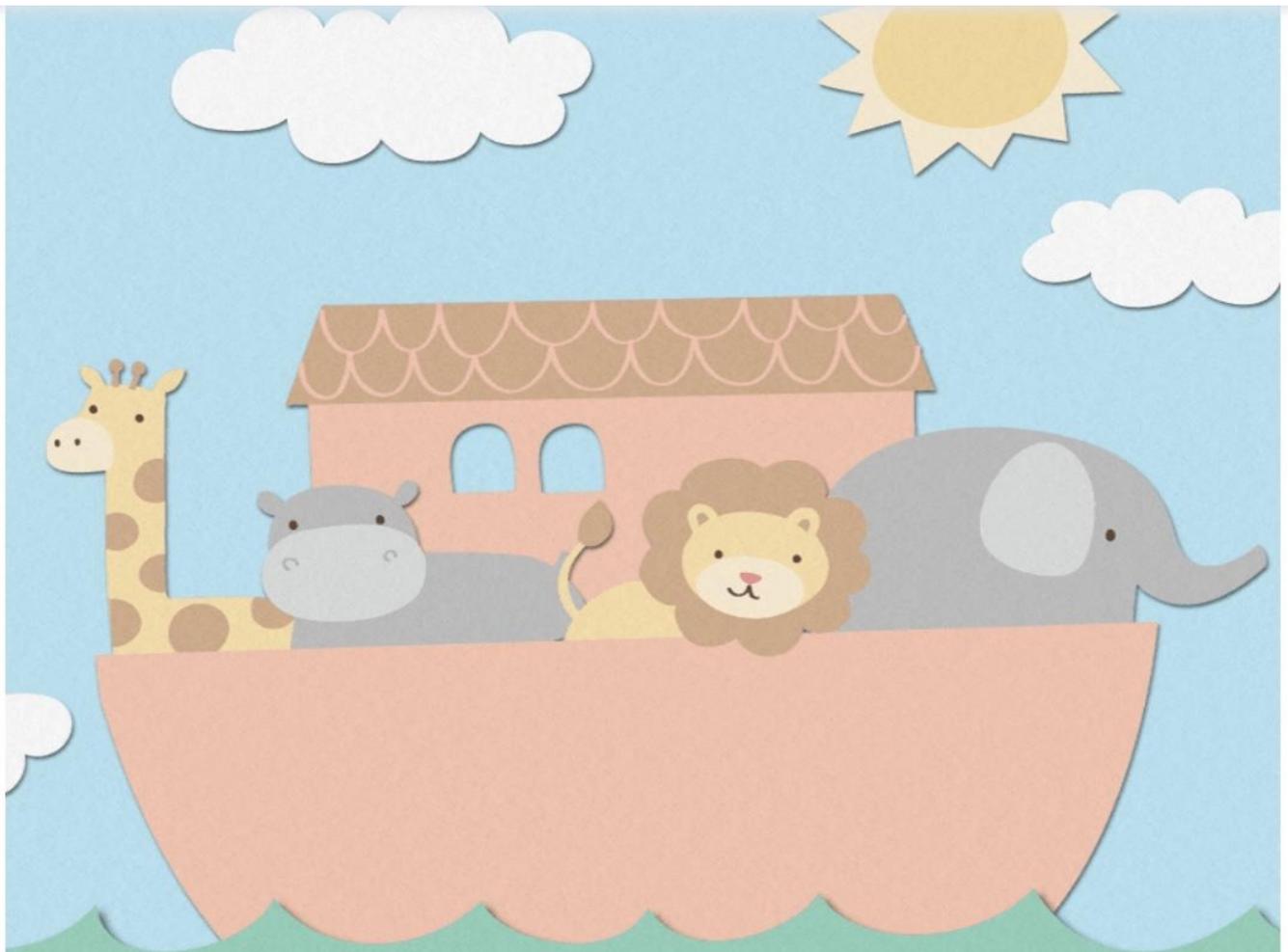
Because of your generous donations we were able to donate 282.6 lbs. of food and pantry items, along with \$20.00 cash and \$675 in checks, for a total of \$695.00. Each \$10.00 donation equals 30 meals, so we have provided nearly 2130 meals.

# Back to 2 Sunday Services

**"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20**

**Two** services will be offered on Sundays at 8:30 am and 10:45 am. These services will be exactly the same. Pick the time that works for you! We are so glad that many of you will be able to meet again to Worship God in-person with the fellowship with other believers!

**"What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." 1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV**



# Baby shower honoring Jenn Schleifer

Sunday, May 23 at 11:45 AM CT

The Grandmothers , Aunt Amber,  
Christina and Mary Mack

952-220-8550

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church  
3601 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431

## MESSAGE FROM HOST

Although cards are nice,  
with their sentiment and prayer,  
they're read once or twice,  
then tucked away with care.

A book is a treasure  
with stories that unite,  
to be read over and over  
night after night.

So instead of a card  
to baby and mother,  
please give a book  
with your thoughts in the cover.

Your book will be cherished,  
God will watch from above.  
When we read, we'll remember,  
your kindness and love.

Lunch and games provided 

### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

8:30 am In-Person Worship

9:30 am Adult Bible Study

10:45 am In-Person Worship

Services Online at

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

**Phone:** 952-888-5059

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

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

**Youtube Channel:** Mount Hope

Lutheran Church

**Facebook:** Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

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

Fran Green

Pastor

[pastor@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:pastor@mthopelutheran.org)

Christina Brantner

Music Director

[music@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:music@mthopelutheran.org)

Jennifer Adamek

Administrative Assistant-Media

[jadamek@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:jadamek@mthopelutheran.org)

Kim Woebke

Director of Preschool and Childcare

Administrative Assistant

[church@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:church@mthopelutheran.org)

Steve Sundseth

Custodian

Sam Killam

Custodian

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd

Bloomington, MN 55431

Address Service Requested

