February2023

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

You are the salt of the world...You are the light of the world!

"So let your light shine before people that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

It was refreshing and recharging to be able to get away for a week. Tammy and I were fortunate to be away during one of the coldest weeks thus far this winter to be able to enjoy the warmth of Florida. Thank you for the gift of some time away.

Time away often allows one the opportunity to focus or refocus on what lies ahead. And that was certainly the case for me. One of the gifts of unstructured time was the chance to think back and reflect on 2022 in preparation of what lies ahead. We have talked about it some in the past month, but to state again, 2022 certainly had its challenges. But we give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness to us and for leading us into a New Year.

In reflecting on the past, I was also able to look over some of the things that I had set aside to read and ponder later. One of these was going over my handouts and notes from the Fall Pastor's Conference, which was held in October. Our district president, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford shared his GoFirst! Initiative for the new triennium. You may remember that Dr. Woodford was reelected this summer for another term.

GoFirst! is for everyone in MN South District to live out our calling as Jesus' followers. To be salt and light. Dr. Woodford writes:

History shows that culture changing movements are often led by those willing to go first. That, of course, was the foundation of the New Testament Church. It was made up of those who were willing to go first. However, they were simply the first to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, who Himself was always ready to go first.

Jesus goes first. That's who He is. His was a life and ministry of going first. He went first from eternity in Heaven to time here on earth. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, so He could save us. To rescue sinners, Jesus goes first.

He didn't wait for the apostles to find Him. Jesus went first and called them to follow Him. Jesus didn't wait for lepers to heal themselves. He went first and healed them.

Jesus didn't wait for the outcasts and marginalized to overcome their oppressors. He went first and spoke a word of hope to them. He didn't wait for the tax collectors and sinners to first straighten out. He went first and loved them. Jesus goes first.

He goes first for you, too. He didn't wait for you to get your life in order before loving you. He went first to the cross to pay for your sins and to show you the depth of His love.

GoFirst! will guide us in 2023 and beyond. We will be focusing on the GoFirst! Initiative in February and returning to it throughout the year.

Serving together, Pastor Fran Green

Activities and Events

Weekly Events

Sunday Adult Bible Study
Join us on Sundays at 10:45 am in the Library for this study lead by Pastor Fran on Genesis.
Sunday Sunday School
Children ages 3-Grade 5 are welcome to attend Sunday School at 10:45 am in the Sunday School room.
GriefShare
Meets on Mondays from 2:00-3:30 pm. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.
Tuesdays at Two
Mt. Hope hosts conversation and coffee on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Collections

Cancelled Stamps

Did you know that you can donate your cancelled stamps for charity? Save your stamps that have their perforatios intact, leave at least ¼ inch on each side of the stamp when cutting it on each side from the enfelope or postcard. Place your cut cancelled stamps in the labeled bin placed on the shelf above the coat rack by the front door.

Recycling Pill Bottles

Help improve the quality of hearlth care in deloping countries by saving and donating your clean, empty pill bottles. Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati, OH accepts donations and distributes them world-wide.

Labels and glue residue must be removed. Wash and dry the bottles before donating. Place donations in the labeled placed on the shelf above the coat rack by the front door. Thank you!

Christian Reading Materials

Donate your religious magazines, books and bibles to Africa. Place your donations in the basket above the coat rack by the front door. Thank you!

Mt. Hope Member Directories

New 2023 Mt. Hope Member Directories are now available. Please take one for updated addresses, phone numbers, and emails.

Card Ministry

Take a moment to fill out the March birthday cards in the entryway. Write a little bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mt. Hope who have birthdays in March.

Prayer Chain Ministry

Please send your prayer requests to Fran Wallin at fratwocor489@aol.com or telephone at 952-707-1881 or 612-644-4052

Prayer can set (or change) the tone of your day

What sets the tone of your day? The frustration of a long commute to work? The pile of dishes in the sink and the never-ending loads of laundry? The mailbox full of bills and bad news?

You wake up full of hope for a new day, then it inevitably hits a snag and you're sent swirling into frustration, anxiety, or worse.

Starting your day in prayer will help to get your mind in the right place for more joy-filled day.

Start your day with praise for all God is and all he's doing in your life.

Set your mind on God and all his goodness.

Fill your morning with thankfulness over all the blessings in your life.

Invite God into the day ahead and ask his help in the areas you know will be difficult.

Turn your daily frustrations into prayer prompts and call upon God to help you reset and restore peace to your heart. Ask him to help you find the joy, even in the struggle and the mundane.

VEAP-Did You Know?

Student Food Packs-VEAP partners with local schools to provide food support to students throughout the academic year. We offer student-friendly foods that include a mix of healthy snacks, breakfast items and ingredients for easy prep meals. VEAP weekend food packs are made with the tastes of students in mind! We also support schools in filling their pantry cupboards. For additional questions, connect with Dave Rannow, VEAP's Distribution Manager, at 952.955.8309.

Lent Series

For Lent we will be returning to a study titled, *At the Crossroads.* We learn from our focus on the *GoFirst! Initiative* that we need to go first when we reach the crossroads of life. This Lenten study will guide us along the way. From the publisher:

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent by Rev. Ted Schroeder

Many of those involved in the story of the Passion of Christ came to a crossroads and had to decide which way to go. Some chose well, some did not, and the stories of each of these experiences at various crossroads helps us to know what to do and what not to do when we encounter similar crossroads in our own lives. In the end, each service in the series reveals in some way how Christ and his cross help us to decide which path is in line with God's will for us.

Ash Wednesday Service-Confession • Psalm32:1-5

In the Ash Wednesday service, David reaches the crossroads of confession and confesses his sins to the Lord. We too are called to confess our sins to the Lord and find forgiveness in him. The service includes an Imposition of Ashes, sermon dialog with David, and hymns that help us to see the direction we must take at the crossroads of confession. Join us on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 pm.

Lent Service #1-Betrayal • John 13:21-30

In Week One in the series Judas Iscariot comes to the point where he must either listen to Jesus or listen to the devil and he chooses to betray Jesus. When we are tempted by Satan to betray our Lord, we gain strength from our Savior to say, "No" to the devil. Come hear about it on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 pm.

Women of Hope Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 12:20 pm. Join us for lunch and then meet to discuss the Valentine Tea, the dispersement of the Harvest Bazaar proceeds and much more. All are welcome to attend.

Valentine's Tea at Mt. Hope

Saturday, Feb. 11th @ 10:00 a.m. will be our annual Valentine Tea at Mt. Hope. Tickets for $10.00 will continue to be on sale Sun. Feb. 5th. We will need a final count by Feb. 6th.

LWML Spring Rally-Save the Date

Be a missionary here at home! Join the LWML Spring Rally as listen and learn from Pastor Mark Moss who tells us about Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Save the date for Saturday, April 1 at 8:30 am. Tickets will go on sale in March. More details to come!

LWML National Convention

Going to Milwaukee! The National LWML Convention is this June 22-25. Registration is now open. Jennifer Adamek and two others will be driving there together. There is room for one more! Go to internet and type LWML Convention 2023 for more details. Or contact Jennifer at 952-451-5860.

New Life Family Services Baby Shower- Thank You

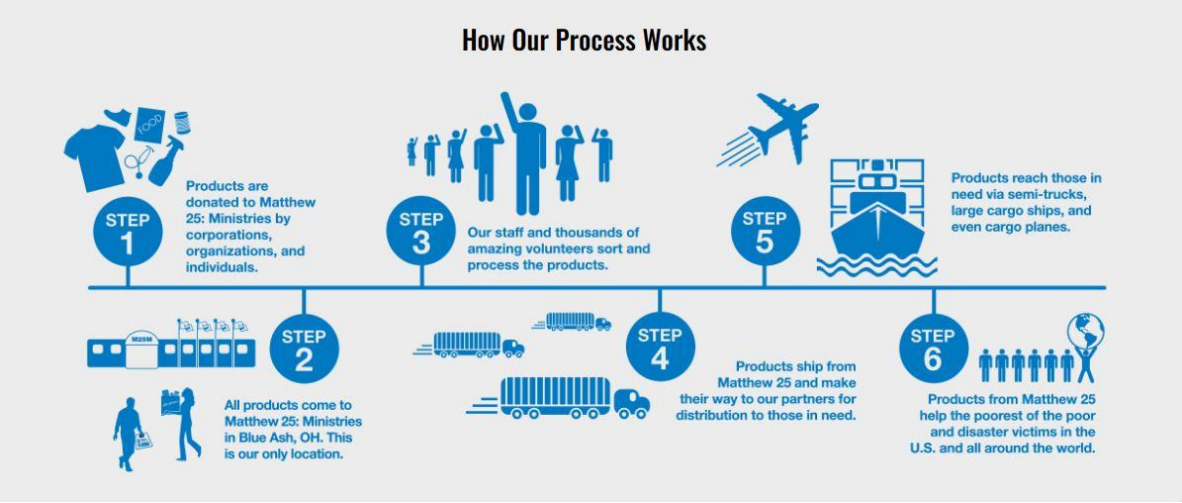
Thank you for the many wonderful donations! Your generosity is so overwhelming. Items will be taken to 1st Care the first week in February.

Pill Bottle Donations Clarification

The work of Matthew 25: Ministries helps the poorest of the poor and disaster victims throughout the United States and around the world.

Acceptable pill bottle collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter, Large and small pill bottles.
- Pill Bottles must have an all plastic lid, with and without secure caps (child-resistant)
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.
- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.
- Bring to Mt. Hope and place in the basket located above the coat racks.



Facebook and Instagram

Check out Mount Hope's Facebook page for services and posts. You can click on the ***share button*** Share or the ***like button*** Like By doing so you spread the Good News of Jesus with your friends and family!

Facebook=Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

Instagram=Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

Website=www.mthopelutheran.org

YouTube=Mount Hope Lutheran Church

LADIES VALENTINE'S TEA

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

FEB 11, 2023

Benedict Family Entertainer's

FORMER MT. HOPE MEMBERS:
MICHAEL AND BONNIE HOLTZ'S
(THEIR MOTHER ANNALYNN (HOLTZ) BENEDICT)

GRANDCHILDREN ARE FIDDLE CONTEST WINNERS,
SINGERS, SOLOISTS, YODELERS, AND CELTIC CLOGGERS.
THEY ALSO PERFORM BLUEGRASS,
HYMNS, AND COUNTRY MUSIC.
THIS SHOULD BE AN ENJOYABLE VARIETY SHOW,
FEATURING THIS MUSICALLY TALENTED FAMILY.

TICKETS ON SALE SUNDAYS:
JAN. 22, JAN. 29, FEB.5
$10 A TICKET-DEADLINE FOR TICKETS FEB. 5
QUESTIONS CONTACT
KAREN MUELLER
952-881-7887

Mt. Hope Celebrations - Febuary 2023

Birthdays
4 Zachary Vogland
9 Kate McMullen
10 Candy Frein
12 Wyatt Vogland
13 Harriet Buelow
18 Todd Mack
20 Karen Mack
24 Steve Schmidt
26 Cathy Frank
28 Caleb Mack

Baptismal Birthdays
1 Tracie Klug-Melbostad
3 James Froemming
9 Marilyn Nelson
14 Gene Roehrick
21 Hope Berg
23 Janice Elbert

Anniversary
16 Dave and Fran Wallin-44 yrs.

Coffee & Coffee Clean up: Febuary – Darlene Wendt

Receptions: Febuary – Jennifer Adamek & Jenn Schleifer

Altar: Febuary – Corinne Condon

Altar Flowers

Sponsoring the altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor loved ones. Flowers are often given to mark special life events such as birth and birthdays; anniversary of a wedding, baptism, confirmation; the memory of a loved one; or as a thanksgiving for life's blessings.

The 2023 Altar Flower Sign Up Calendar is up on the bulletin board in the information hallway. Please sign up for a date and place your $30 check, payable to the Women of Hope, in Karen Mack's mailbox in the information hallway.
Karen Mack phone number is 952-831-7428 for any questions you may have.

Febuary 5 #1 Joy Schneider #2 Jerry & Kirsten Buelow
Febuary 12 #1 Fran and Dave Wallin #2 Corinne Condon
Febuary 19 #1 Karen Mack #2 Al Johnson
Febuary 26 Kirk Vogland

Directory Corrections

Renata Melby Home Phone: 952-881-7160

Febuary 2023

Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family

Mount Hope Lutheran Church Preschool and Childcare

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd Bloomington MN 55431

www.mthopelutheran.org

church@mthopelutheran.org

952 888 5059

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am IFC	2	3 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club	4
5 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Congregational Voter's Meeting	6 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	7 12:30pm Women of Hope Meeting 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	8 10:00am IFC	9	10 10:00am IFC	11 10:00am Valentine Tea
12 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	13 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	14 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA 	15 10:00am IFC	16 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting	17 10:00am IFC	18
19 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	20 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	21 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	22 10:00am IFC	23	24 10:00am IFC	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	27 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	28 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA				

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 am In-Person Worship

10:30 am Adult Bible Study

Services Online at

www.mthopelutheran.org/sermons

and, **YouTube Channel:**

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

Phone: 952-888-5059

E-mail: church@mthopelutheran.org

Website:www.mthopelutheran.org

Facebook: Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

Mount Hope's Staff

Fran Green	Pastor
	pastor@mthopelutheran.org
Kayla Gundermann	Music Director
	gundermk@csp.edu
Jennifer Adamek	Administrative Assistant-Media
	jadamek@mthopelutheran.org
Sam Killam	Custodian
	skillam06@yahoo.com

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd

Bloomington, MN 55431

Address Service Requested