

# April 2023

## Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

***He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Matthew 28:6 NLT***

Our At the Crossroads series will continue during Holy Week. Palm Sunday is April 2, then we will also worship at 6:30 pm on Maundy Thursday (April 6), Good Friday (April 7) and Easter Sunday, our Resurrection Celebration (April 9). These are **wonderful opportunities to invite a friend** to join us.

Join us for a special service for Easter Sunday at 9:30. In this service we recall that after the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, she responds by telling the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" We who know that our Redeemer lives must share that news with others too. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Mary Magdalene and hymns that help us to fix our eyes on the crossroads of life at the threshold of heaven, where our risen Lord is eager to escort us into eternity.

It is a wonderful time to be a follower of Jesus and the church is a vital part of our life of faith as we journey together. Remember, it takes all of us! Last month, I shared Nine Good Reasons To Attend Church Weekly from Thom Rainer at Church Answers. For this month, I am sharing another article from Church Answers that is also important for any follower of Jesus to consider.

The following is by Thom S. Rainer, Seven Considerations If You Are a Church Member Planning on Leaving Your Church (Thomrainer.com)

You've been with your church for a while now. Something is now urging you to leave the church. We will not get into evaluating your reasons. Let's just say you have made the decision, or you are close to making that decision. Let's assume you are not moving to another location. You are leaving your church because you think you should make this exit.

While I do not want to judge you or argue with you, would you consider reading the rest of this article? Would you look at the following seven considerations before you make the decision final?

- 1. Make certain you have prayed about the decision.** It is not a move to be taken lightly. Ask God to check your heart to see if the prompting is His or your own.
- 2. Ask yourself if you are making the decision because of personal preferences.** Perhaps the sermon seemed too long. Maybe the music is not the perfect blend that you like. Still yet, maybe you have decided "you are not being fed" spiritually. That is a common reason given by exiting members. Please know, though, the next church you attend will not meet all of your preferences and desires either. Church membership in its truest biblical form is self-sacrificing and forgiving (see 1 Corinthians 12 and 13).
- 3. If you are using the exit as an escape to quit churchgoing altogether, please don't do it.** We have seen church members, elders, and deacons leave churches saying one thing but dropping out of church life completely. Please remember that God gave us the local church as His plan A for His mission, and He did not give us a plan B.
- 4. Understand that your decision will hurt many people.** In fact, such decisions are one of pastors' greatest hurts. Many take it personally. Others in the church are discouraged and confused when members, particularly active members, leave the church.

**5. Please do not leave the church if you haven't reconciled with those with whom you have conflict.** Jesus was clear and unwavering on this matter: "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God" (Matthew 5:24, NLT).

**6. Don't leave with complaints and criticisms.** Such behavior is not good for the Kingdom, and it certainly reflects poorly on you. And by all means, keep your negativity off social media.

**7. If you still decide to leave, give your pastor a good and honest reason why you are doing so.** Don't leave in a huff of silence. Don't give a reason that is not the true reason. Your pastor has been your shepherd. Your pastor likely has made sacrifices for you of which you are not aware. It would be cruel and unbiblical to walk out with no explanation or a bad explanation.

Obviously, I believe that dropping out of your church should be rare and biblically reasoned. I am not questioning your motive or judging your heart. I am simply asking you to consider the seven points I just made.

Mount Hope, Where Guests become Friends, and Friends become Family.

Your Friend,  
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 perforations intact, leave at least ¼ inch on each side of the stamp when cutting it on each side from the envelope 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 health care in developing 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 bin 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!

## Card Ministry

Make someone's day by brightening their day. Take a moment to fill out the May birthday cards in the entryway. Write a little bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mount Hope who have birthdays in May.

## Prayer Chain Ministry

Please send your prayer requests to Fran Wallin at [fratwocor489@aol.com](mailto:fratwocor489@aol.com) or telephone at 952-707-1881 or 612-644-4052

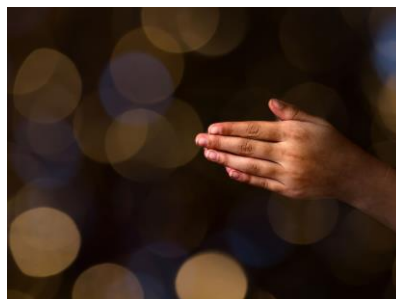
Have you ever thought about the benefits of prayer? Maybe you've not thought about prayer having 'benefits.'

For many, prayer is simply a religious ritual. Sometimes our view of prayer can be quite limited and we don't necessarily consider the spiritual benefits of prayer. The reality is they are far greater than you may have imagined.

Prayer can be life changing when you make time for it. That's why it's an important and key part of your day.

Here's seven practical and spiritual benefits of prayer.

1. You will get closer to God.
2. Prayer will reduce anxiety and you will experience calm.
3. Increases your gratitude and thankfulness.
4. It shifts our focus to others.
5. We hear from God.
6. Prayer puts off temptation.
7. It brings about miracles.



## Holy Week

For Lent we have been following the study titled, *At the Crossroads* 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 help 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 lead us to decide the path of God's will for us.

### Maundy Service – April 6 at 6:30 pm

Join us for a special service for Maundy Thursday. In this service we remember that when Jesus institutes the first Lord's Supper, he grants forgiveness to his disciples through the bread and wine. When we receive the bread and wine of Communion in remembrance of him, we receive that forgiveness and in turn forgive others. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with two struggling modern-day neighbors, Tom and Marie, and hymns that help us to approach the crossroads of forgiveness with reverence and relief.

### Good Friday Service – April 7 at 6:30 pm

Join us for a special service for Good Friday. In this service we are reminded that when Jesus is on the cross, he accepts the power of death upon himself and does not turn away from it. We, too, must face death when it comes and not turn away from it, knowing that his salvation awaits us on the other side. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and hymns that help us to face the inevitable crossroads of death with the certain hope of everlasting life through Christ and his cross.

### Easter Celebration Service – April 9 at 9:30 am

Join us for a special service for Easter Sunday. In this service we recall that after the risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, she responds by telling the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" We who know that our Redeemer lives must share that news with others too. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon dialog with Mary Magdalene and hymns that help us to fix our eyes on the crossroads of life at the threshold of heaven, where our risen Lord is eager to escort us into eternity.

### Sermon Theme April 16-May 21.

On April 16 we will begin a new sermon series called *Developing Passionate Disciples* focusing on the bible book of Matthew. The book of Matthew is about developing passionate disciples of Jesus. Matthew uses the word "disciple" 72 times. We will be studying topics such as: Definition, Selection, Reconciliation, Devotion, Mission, and Production. Join us as we learn and grow together.

### Book Club

Friday, April 7 at 1:30 pm. Our Book Club will be meeting at Renata Melby's home. Her address is: 10727 Zenith Ave S Bloomington. Come and share your thoughts on the book and enjoy dessert.

### Women of Hope Meet in May

Our next Women of Hope Meeting is on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. We will be meeting in the library. Pizza and dessert will be served. All women of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Int'l Friendship Center's Potluck

Join us for a Potluck Easter Dinner on Friday, April 14 with the Int'l Friendship Center's students, teachers and Mount Hope members. Bring a dish to pass. Please RSVP with Shari at [shari@poblo.org](mailto:shari@poblo.org)

## **Mt. Hope Celebrations - April 2023**

### **Birthdays**

16 Tricia Regan  
19 Linda Quittschreiber  
19 Renata Melby  
20 Chris Nazy  
20 Kim Kunkel  
21 Ramona Duncan  
23 Randy Lingen  
24 Andrew Nazy  
29 Nathan Moss

### **Baptismal Birthdays**

1 Caleb Mack  
15 Darlene Buelow  
16 Maria Killam

### **Anniversary**

11 Greg & Janice Elbert-21 yrs.

## **VEAP'S FOOD & FUND DRIVE-goes until April 9th**

Thank you for your contributions toward the March Food and Fund Drive. I delivered 136 pounds of product to VEAP, on March 6th, our first March delivery. The special drive goes until April 9th. Just a reminder, if you donate cash to VEAP, through Mt. Hope deliveries, Mt. Hope gets credit for the donation.

However, if you write out a personal check, even if I deliver it with food deliveries from Mt. Hope, you will likely get a notice of your personal donation, at the end of the year, for tax purposes, and Mt. Hope will not get credit for those \$. In the past I have mentioned the personal check donations, as coming from Mt. Hope, so moving forward I will list as personal donations equaling X amount of dollars.

Karen Mueller, Ministry Partner Rep.

## **Coffee & Coffee Clean up: April – Sue Hedensten**

## **Receptions: April – Karen Mueller, Kristen Buelow**

## **Altar: April – Betty Schleifer**

## **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.

April 2 – Renata Melby—in honor of 3 family birthdays in the month of April

April 9 – Kathy and Steve Sundseth—in honor of the 16th birthday of their granddaughter Zoe Patrick

April 16—Holly and Vern Traetow—in thanksgiving for God's many Blessings

April 23 –Karen Mueller- in memory of her husband Bill

April 30 -





**Easter morning  
bright and fair  
Tells me of God's  
loving care.  
Flowers that were  
gone from view,  
Now awakening,  
bloom anew.  
Though God's face  
I do not see,  
I will trust His care  
for me.**

**—*Jennifer Hayden***

# April 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](http://www.mthopelutheran.org)

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

952 888 5059



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Easter Celebration Service	3 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	4 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	5 10:00am IFC	6 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	7 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club at Renata Melby's 6:30pm Good Friday Service	8
9 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	10 9:15-11:00am Pre use Sanctuary 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	11 9:15-11:00am Pre use Sanctuary 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA 5:00pm Girls Scouts use classroom	12 10:00am IFC	13 9:15-11:00am Pre use Sanctuary 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting	14 10:00am IFC 6:00pm IFC Easter Potluck	15
16 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	17 9:15-11:00am Pre use Sanctuary 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	18 9:15-11:00am Pre use Sanctuary 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	19 10:00am IFC	20 9:15-11:00am Pre use Sanctuary	21 10:00am IFC	22 10:00am Preschool Spring Program in Sanctuary
23/30 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	24 10:00am IFC 2-3:30pm GriefShare 5:00pm IFC	25 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	26 10:00am IFC	27	28 10:00am IFC	29

### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:30 am In-Person Worship

10:30 am Adult Bible Study

Services Online at

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

and, **YouTube Channel:**

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

**Phone:** 952-888-5059

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

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

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

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

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