

# June 2023

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

***You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life (John 5:39–40 NIV).***

Jesus chided the Pharisees for studying the Scriptures and missing the point. Chapter 2 of State of the Bible 2023 offers some interesting information that should not surprise us:

There is a deep connection between Scripture engagement and commitment to Christ. This is a point of faith for those of us who work on the State of the Bible report, but it's also good to get data verifying this belief.

The data tells us that reading our Bibles impacts our relationship with Jesus. Scripture engagement is vital! Of course, it is. ***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV).***

God's Word and people's engagement, or not, with it, touches and shapes every area of our lives.

This leads to a not so surprising, but interesting article that I read this past week from Thom Rainer and Church Answers, The One Big Reason Church Attendance Is Declining (and Most Church Leaders Are Unaware) here is a portion of that post:

People are attending less or not at all for **one major reason**: In the words of a PRRI study, they **"stopped believing in the religion's teachings."**

That reason was the overwhelming motive of the dropouts (56% versus 30% for the second highest motive).

Did you get that? They left church because they said they did not believe what the church taught. But I suspect that they did not believe because they really did not know what the church taught. In other words, we have an assimilation and dropout problem because our churches are **not adequately teaching the Bible and the essentials of the Christian faith.**

### **The Evidence Is Clear**

We have been conducting church health surveys since 1996. We have millions of data points in this longitudinal study (meaning we ask the same questions over several years).

There are two alarming data points in our studies. First, churches are rapidly abandoning evangelism. Second, church members are steadily denying the essentials of the Christian faith.

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Thom Rainer offers the simple solution, The solution is clear as well. We have to return to the basics and essentials of the Christian faith, and get our church members more immersed in the Bible.

Yes, the solution is clear. The question is clear as well: Will we do it?

What a wonderful challenge for all of us this summer! Making time for God's Word each and every day!! See you on Sunday.

Your Friend,

Pastor Fran Green

## *A Father Just Like You*

*I just want to let you know  
You mean the world to me  
Only a heart as dear as yours  
Would give so unselfishly*

*The many things you've done  
All the times that you were there  
Help me know deep down inside  
How much you really care*

*Even though I might not say  
I appreciate all you do  
Richly blessed is how I feel  
Having a father just like you*

# 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

Sunday School is on summer break. We will resume in the fall.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

Children's Message and Children's Church during the sermon time.

### Tuesdays at Two

Mount Hope hosts conversation, coffee and treats on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. Invite a friend to attend! Introduce them to a family of members in a relaxed setting. 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 labeled basket 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 Juy birthday cards in the entryway. Perhaps write a little bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mount Hope who have birthdays in July.

## 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

The most basic definition of prayer is "talking to God"; it is direct address to God. It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God. Prayer can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal. All prayer must be offered in faith (James 1:6), in the name of the Lord Jesus (John 16:23), and in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26).

Prayer is described in the Bible as seeking God's favor (Exodus 32:11), pouring out one's soul to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:15), crying out to heaven (2 Chronicles 32:20), drawing near to God (Psalm 73:28, KJV), and kneeling before the Father (Ephesians 3:14).

Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). Worry about nothing; pray about everything.

Everything? Yes, God wants us to talk with Him about everything. How often should we pray? The biblical answer is "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We should keep a running conversation going with God all day long.

## Audio Assisted Hearing Devices

Did you know Audio Assisted hearing devices are available for you during church services? The hearing device is worn around your neck and has a mic that attaches to one ear. The volume can be turned up or down for your convenience. Stop at the tech booth in the sanctuary if you would like to try one out this Sunday!

## Book Club

First Friday Book Club will meet on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 pm at Renata Melby's home at 10727 Zenith Ave S, Bloomington. June's book to discuss is *Necessary Lies* by Diane Chamberlain. Read it if you choose, otherwise come and visit and we'll catch up on our lives and relax.

## Thank You

Thank you for the cards and well wishes for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I also wish to thank those who served cake at my birthday reception on May 7<sup>th</sup>-Armand Boehnke.

## Women of Hope

Ladies Night Out is on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at Perkins on 494 and France Ave. Please sign up on the church bulletin Board if you'd like to go so that we know how many to seat at the restaurant. There will be a carpool leaving from the church to Perkins from 5:00-5:15 pm. Cars will be leaving the parking lot of church at 5:15 pm.

The 2023 Harvest Bazaar date has been scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023. There will be a planning meeting in July for this event. Want to be in on the planning of the Harvest Bazaar? Join us on Tuesday, July 11 at 6:00 pm. We are holding this meeting in the meeting for those of you work during the day and would like to attend.

## Mission Pledge Walk at the LWML Convention

I will be participating in the Mission Pledge Walk at the LWML Convention in Milwaukee on June Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 pm. Would you consider sponsoring me with a donation? These pledges will contribute to the LWML Mites goal for 2023-2025. Checks can be made payable to LWML with "Mission Pledge Walk" in the memo area. Pray that our walk may be successful and fruitful! Jennifer Adamek 952-451-5860 cell phone.

## LWML Nat'l Convention Bus Stop

The bus to Nat'l will have 5 stops across the MN South District. The bus will be stopping at Mt. Hope's parking lot and picking up a few attending ladies on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. There are currently 50 ladies riding on the bus from the MN South District! Let's welcome them with cookies and water and send them off in style! Be at the church by 9:30 am. Contact Jennifer with any questions. 952-451-5860. Expect there to be additional cars in our parking lot until Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Life Line Screening

Mt. Hope Lutheran will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on Friday, June 2, 2023.

## VEAP

Let's get growing! Spring is here, and it's the perfect time to start a giving garden. At VEAP, nearly half the food leaving our pantry is fresh produce. Join us in making a difference by donating your homegrown veggies, herbs, and fruit to fill the plates of people in need. We accept all varieties of garden produce, and welcome your donations throughout the summer. Just brush off the dirt, and place in a paper bag or cardboard box. If you bring fresh produce to the green VEAP collection shelf, you may want to call me, so I can be sure to deliver while it is very fresh.

Another opportunity for you to consider. Is a teen in your life looking for an extra impactful way to get engaged with their local community this summer? Consider connecting them with VEAP's Future Light!

This special program combines direct volunteering roles at our pantry with trainings on suburban poverty. Cohort sizes are kept small to encourage group connections and hands-on support and will start each month in June, July and August. Each Future Light cohort session will run for two weeks with students meeting four days a week. Learn more about this or to sign up: [veap.org/future-light](http://veap.org/future-light)

Karen Mueller, VEAP Ministry Partner Rep.

## **Mt. Hope Celebrations – June 2023**

### **Birthdays**

7 Marcy Caspersen  
8 Christina Brantner  
13 Kathi Rokke  
18 Kristen Melbostad  
19 Vance Melbostad  
19 Joel Schleifer  
20 Elizabeth Mack  
20 Pat Roehrick  
21 Elijah Mack  
22 Arlene Oleson  
22 Bob Tolzin  
28 Jeff Alt

### **Baptismal Birthdays**

1 Armand Boehnke  
1 Marjule Boehnke  
5 Josh Adamek  
12 Missy Quittschreiber  
18 Emily Vogland  
20 Emily Woodhall  
23 Kayla Vogland  
23 Wyatt Vogland  
26 Claire McMullen

### **Anniversary**

12 Cory & Christina Brantner 13 yrs.  
13 Bob & Carol Tolzin 58 yrs.  
20 Richard & Wendy Ewald 42 yrs.  
21 Arnie & Hope Berg 65 yrs.

## **Coffee & Coffee Clean up: June – Linda Thramer**

## **Receptions: June – Carrie Newton, Jennifer Adamek**

## **Altar: June– Holly Traetrow**

## **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 births 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.

June 4 – Kristie Voth  
June 11 – Bob and Carol Tolzin  
June 18 – Hope and Arnie Berg  
June 25 – Karen Mack

# Children's Ministry



## Upcoming Events:

### First Sunday of Every Month

Children's sermon during our 9:30 am service

Following the children's sermon, we'll offer children of all ages to join Kids Church until the end of the service (led by Lisa and Jenn)

### Wednesday, June 14th 5:00-7:00 pm

Celebrating summer and all of God's glory

Come hang out at Mount Hope for an evening of fun in the parking lot

Free Dinner \* Yard Games \* Music \* Prizes



Please see Lisa Stolquist or Jenn Schleifer  
w/ questions regarding  
children's ministry details.

# June 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 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	2 8:00am LifeLine Screening	3	1	2 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club at Renata Melby's	3
4 9:30am Worship with Kids Sermon and Kids Church 10:45am Education Hour	5 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	6 2:00pm Tues@2 5:00-5:15 Carpool 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out Perkins 8:00pm AA	7 10:00am IFC	8	9 10:00am IFC	10
11 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	12 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	13 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	14 10:00am IFC 5:00-7:00pm Children's Ministry: games, music, free food	15 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting	16 10:00am IFC	17
Father's Day 18 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	19 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	20 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	21 9:30am LWML Bus welcome 10:00am LWML Bus Send Off 10:00am IFC	22 LWML Nat'l Convention Milwaukee	23 LWML Nat'l Convention Milwaukee 10:00am IFC	24 LWML Nat'l Convention Milwaukee
25 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour LWML Nat'l Convention Milwaukee	26 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	27 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	28 10:00am IFC	29	30 10:00am IFC	

### **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**

Fran Green

Pastor

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Kayla Gundermann Music Director

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Address Service Requested

