

April 2025

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church



Words from Pastor Fran

Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed – for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. John 20:8-9 (NLT)

Our celebration of Resurrection Day is rapidly approaching! Once again, we will remember why we have hope in this dark and weary land. *For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)*

That is the hope we share! The sure and certain hope that we speak of during funerals. We celebrate and give thanks that this incredible message of hope is even for us. For all people, today.

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:12-14 (NLT)

It's probably safe to say that everyone who reads this article already knows these things. We will once again remember and celebrate all of this on Easter Sunday, April 20. And it is good for us to remember and celebrate. Perhaps some of us need a new and fresh remembrance. And that is great, *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

This is the message of hope that our world so desperately needs too! The apostle Paul states, *So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to Christ. That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.*

We boldly proclaim these words each week at the end of our worship service: *Our vision is to reach our friends and neighbors with the truth, love, and hope of Jesus Christ while growing as His disciples.*

The Church is entrusted with this message of hope. God works through the Body of Christ, through His Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit drawing people to Himself. We are all called to join in the work and like Paul to depend on Christ's mighty power that works within and through us.

There is nothing more important than this. By the time you read this, we will be nearing the end of Mount Hope's first time through, *The Hope Initiative, Pray & Go*. This is a resource produced by *Church Answers* that focuses on equipping churches and individuals to become "Great Commission Christians". We are trusting the Lord of the harvest to work through us in living out our bold vision statement.

We are praying that you will join us in becoming a *Great Commission Christian!* *The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Luke 10:2 (NLT)*

Serving together,

Pastor Fran Green



THE SYMBOL OF HUMILITY AND LOVE

As Christians, I would say that most of us display crosses in our homes. And others wear them around their necks. Yet whether displaying them or wearing one, have you ever taken a moment to fully grasp its meaning?

From our history books and reading our Bible, we come to understand that, without argument, the cross was one of the most shameful and painful forms of execution. Just imagine, if we can, first being flogged with three leather cords each containing a piece of bone or metal embedded into it. Then, with each strike to the body pieces of flesh were literally ripped away. After this the executioners hammered a long nail into each hand or wrist, with another being driven through the ankles while the body lay on the cross. As if that were not enough, the cross is now raised and allowed to fall into a hole in the ground. I can't even imagine what all this must have felt like. Now trying to sustain what little life is left in the body, the convicted must push up on his bloody ankles and raw back. I stick my finger with a pin or get a paper cut and think "ouch". This form of torture, I can not only believe, but cannot **fathom** either.

Yet we know of an innocent one who died in this manner. Humiliated, scourged, spit upon, the one who experienced the full agony of this brutality and shameful death—Jesus, our Savior. Worst of all, when Jesus took the sin of the world upon Himself, the Father turned from Him leaving His Son alone. (*Matt 27, and 2 Cor 5*). Amazingly, Jesus did not see Himself as a victim. He willingly gave up His life and shed His blood considering it a joy (*Hebrews 12*).

I share this because for the last several years I have been going back to the question posed in the first paragraph. Have I taken the time to look at the cross and fully grasp its meaning and the depth of the love it represents? Yes, I still ask the questions: *God who is all powerful and all-knowing can do anything, right? So why didn't He choose another way to reconcile us to Himself?* Yet even asking these questions, I can truthfully say "I'm on my way to a better understanding of its meaning."

Now when I pray, I look directly at the cross. I envision Jesus there in my place and consider all He endured on that cross for my sake. And so often, with tears in my eyes, I thank Him for His boundless love. Yes, He died, He rose, He conquered death for me—I can only imagine. And I quietly say in my heart, "**Oh what a Savior.**"

Blessings,

Fran Wallin



For our Lenten and Easter journey we are using a study authored by Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, titled *Singing With the Exiles*. We continue to gather this Lenten season each Wednesday at 11:30 for a time of worship followed by a light lunch.

Midweek of Lent 4 (4/2) – Isaiah 48:17–22; Get Out

Midweek of Lent 5 (4/9) – Isaiah 49:1–6; One Little Word Can Fell Him



Palm Sunday (9:30am) – Traditional Reading

Holy Thursday (6:30pm) – Isaiah 49:7–13; He Prepares a Table for Us

Good Friday (6:30pm) – Isaiah 52:13–53:12; All

Easter (9:30am) – Isaiah 55:6–13; We Are Going Home

Events, Activities & This-n-That

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Adult Bible Study

10:45am in the Library

Sunday School

10:45am—classroom

Mondays - Grief Share

Grief Share began their Spring session on Feb. 24th. The program is for those who have lost a loved one and helps facilitate healing and finding a new lifepath. Registration on their website is requested. You can get more information from their leader, Joy Schneider: lovemercy3@yahoo.com

Tuesdays @ Two

Mt. Hope hosts conversation and coffee on Tuesdays at **2:00 pm**. All are invited to attend. We usually have some treats too!



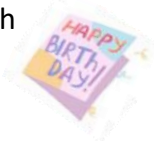
ONGOING EVENTS

1st Sunday of the Month

There is usually a special **Children's Message** during the Sunday morning worship. Also on that day we take a **Noisy Offering!** Bring your "noisy" coins that day to drop in the bucket (paper money donations gladly accepted also!) Monies go to the Children's Ministry program.

Card Ministry

Take a moment to fill out the **May** birthday cards in the narthex. Write a little bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mt. Hope who have birthdays in May. We're always one month ahead so when the new month begins, we can start distributing the greetings.



Cancelled Stamps Collection

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 from the envelope or postcard. Place your cut cancelled stamps in the labeled bin located on the shelf above the coat rack.



First Friday Book Club

FFBC will meet on Apr. 4th at 1:30pm @Marilyn's. The book for April is

"**Dogland**" by Tommy Tomlinson. Tomlinson was watching a dog show on television a few years ago when he had a sudden thought: Are those dogs happy? How about pet dogs—are they happy? Those questions sparked a quest to venture inside the dog-show world, in search of a deeper understanding of the longtime relationship between dogs and humans, and here, in *Dogland* he shares his surprising, entertaining, and moving adventures. All are welcome. RSVP Marilyn. *Renata Melby*

Also Book Related

We are always looking for donations for our outdoor **Free Lending Library** out on Old Shakopee. Now that the weather is getting nicer, we'll have more people walking by it! Drop off your donations on the cart in our library.

PRAYER CHAIN



Each month we provide for you a daily prayer topic list. You can find it located at the information table outside of the office or at a number of other places throughout the church.

If you have a personal prayer request for you, a loved one, or a friend, our prayer group will include it in our prayers, and pass it along to Pastor Fran to include during worship (if desired). And, we rejoice when prayers are answered! If there is no longer a need to be included in our prayers, also please let us know.

If you have a personal prayer request, send your prayer requests to me at fratwocor489@aol.com or by telephone at **612-644-4052 (new #)**. *Fran Wallin*

Mt. Hope Online!

Find our livestreamed services on [YouTube](#)

or on our [Facebook](#) page.



WOMEN OF HOPE

"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:20



- ✦ The Women of Hope have been busy preparing **Lenten Meals**. We would love to have you join us in fellowship after the 11:30am Lenten Worship Services each Wednesday thru April 9th.
- ✦ The two boxes of **Christian Literature** items for Global Gospel Books have been picked up and taken down to the center to be distributed as needed. Thanks to everyone who contributed the literature. Over 60 Bibles were taken down from various churches in our area to the distribution center. This fall, there will be another pick up so please continue to bring devotional books, Sunday School material and especially Bibles and place them in the Christian Literature Box above the coat racks.
- ✦ We are in the process of upgrading our **church sanctuary listening devices**. Thank you Katrina & Kirsten for your help with this project. If you would like to use these devices, please check the box above the Usher's Cabinet in the back of the church when they become available.
- ✦ Ladies, the **Spring LWML Rally** will be May 3, 2025 at Redemption Lutheran Church in Bloomington at 9:30am. Tickets will be \$12 each. The guest speaker will be from The Grain Train, a ministry of the Lutheran Church, which helps provide food and care kits to people in time of crisis. Please speak to Linda Quittschreiber, Corinne Condon or Eileen Daak for tickets or additional information.
- ✦ The next **Women of Hope Meeting** will be on April 12, 2025 at 9:30am. Please consider joining us as we meet together and share in projects and fellowship.

Easter is a celebration of Hope. God's great love for us was displayed for us on the cross and His great power was demonstrated through the empty tomb. Now we can say with full hearts **"Christ is Risen, He has Risen Indeed!"**



Lutheran Witness Magazine

At *The Lutheran Witness* their goal is to help you interpret the world from a Lutheran perspective. The editors and designers work to craft articles and magazines that point readers to Christ and Him crucified for the sins of

the world. In the end, it's not about the crafted words and refined designs, it's about Him and His life, suffering, and death for the sins of the world.

Printed, published and distributed 11 times a year (a combined June/July edition) by Concordia Publishing House, the publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Mt. Hope will pick up the subscription cost. If you are interested in receiving the magazine, please let the office know by May 1st and we will get you on the subscription list and it will be mailed to your home.



Easter Flowers

A list of those who donated Easter flowers will be published in the May newsletter.



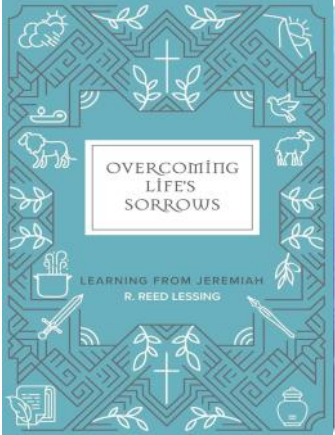
SAGES GATHERING XXXV

MAY 5 AND 6, 2025
AT COUNTRY INN AND SUITES IN MANKATO MN



Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing
Featured Presenter

"OVERCOMING LIFE'S SORROWS"
Learning from Jeremiah



Registration Deadline
April 14th

WORKSHOPS, MUSIC, VENDORS, BANQUET
More info at the information nook in the narthex.



From our Brothers and Sisters at
Redemption Lutheran:



Join us on the evening of the first Sunday of each month for movie night! We will watch a popular movie and discuss the message through a Christian lens. Popcorn and Pop will be available for everyone joining us. So bring the whole family for our showing of Disney's "Encanto" on April 6th at Redemption Lutheran (927 E. Old Shakopee Rd).
See you there!

Also, for **Lent**, Redemption is offering a 6:30pm Lent worship option. There will be a light supper served starting at 5:00pm. All are welcomed!



VEAP report for March:

- On March 3rd the delivery of the February Birthday Bag donations were made along with a good amount of canned goods. That delivery was 190 lbs! Then on March 18th, two checks for \$500. each were delivered as a part of the March Food & Fund drive. There will be another delivery at the end of the March campaign, which goes through **April 6th**.
- For the 4th year in a row, MN saw the highest number of visitors to food shelves, and so did VEAP in 2024. VEAP provided over four and a half million pounds of food to 256,000 people, through their on-site pantry, mobile pantry, delivery options, and student hungry initiative. A donation of \$120. will provide a family of four with all the meals they need for an entire month. Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.
- April's featured items are household items, such as toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, detergent, facial tissue and the like. Also accepted any time is dog & cat food, treats, and litter. Thank you for your continued support of the needs of VEAP.

Karen Mueller, *Ministry Partner Rep.*



International Friendship Center

Easter Potluck

Monday, April 14th

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Burnsville IFC—Ascension Lutheran Church

1801 Cliff Rd E., Burnsville, MN

All are welcome!

Please RSVP—Text Shari @ (612) 552-3878

Please bring a food dish to share.



April Celebrations!!

BIRTHDAYS

4/13 Averi Lang
4/16 Tricia Regan
4/19 Linda Quittschreiber
4/19 Renata Melby
4/20 Chris Nazy
4/20 Kim Kunkel
4/23 Randy Lingen
4/24 Andrew Nazy
4/29 Nathan Moss

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Caleb Mack
4/15 Darlene Buelow
4/16 Maria Killam

ANNIVERSARIES

4/11 Greg & Janice Elbert – 23yr
4/14 Kevin & Emily Lang – 13yr



Serving in April

Coffee/Treats & Clean up: Vern & Holly Traetow

Kitchen/Receptions: Corinne Condon

Altar: Renata Melby, Betty Schleifer

Elders: 4/6 - Jerry L., 4/13 - Al J., 4/20 - Dave S., 4/27 - Steve S.

Altar Flowers

Apr. 6 – Steve Oberlander—in memory of his wife Fran (*dedicated before his passing*)

Apr. 13 – Karen Mueller—in loving memory of her husband, Bill,
who passed away 16 yrs. ago on 4/27

Apr. 20 – Lloyd & Linda Quittschreiber—in celebration of April family birthdays

Apr. 27 – Jerry & Harriet Buelow—in celebration of daughter Kim's birthday



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 **2025 Altar Flower Sign Up Calendar** is posted 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 opposite the bulletin board. Karen Mack's phone number is 952-831-7428 for any questions you may have.

NOTE: Each month, by the 20th, I send to the office, the next months list of people who have signed up to donate flowers. If, by chance, there is an open spot in the next month and you sign up after the 20th, please let me know, so I don't miss your name and consequently have no flowers. Thank you.

April 2025

Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431

952 888 5059 church@mthopelutheran.org

www.mthopelutheran.org



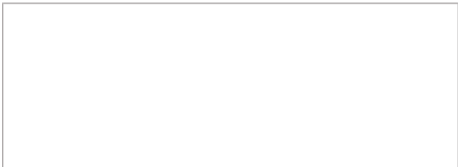
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm Music Cls. 7:00pm YA Disc. 8:00pm AA	2 10:00am IFC 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 7:00pm Bible Study	3 11:00am G Moss Funeral 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 7:00pm WorshipTm Rehearsal	4 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club @ Marilyn's 6:30pm Leaders Discipleship	5
6 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm Centro Esp. Worship	7 10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share 6:30pm ESL Class	8 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm Music Cls. 7:00pm YA Disc. 8:00pm AA	9 10:00am IFC 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 7:00pm Bible Study	10 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 7:00pm WorshipTm Rehearsal	11 10:00am IFC 6:30pm Marriage Discipleship	12 9:30am Women of Hope 10:30am Teen Discipleship
Palm Sunday 13 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm Centro Esp. Worship	14 10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share 6:30pm ESL Class	15 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm Music Cls. 7:00pm YA Disc. 8:00pm AA	16 10:00am IFC 11:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch 7:00pm Bible Study	Maundy Thur. 17 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 8:00pm WorshipTm Rehearsal	Good Friday 18 10:00am IFC 6:30pm Worship 6:30pm Leaders Discipleship	19
Easter Sunday 20 9:30am Worship NO Ed. Hour 1:00pm Centro Esp. Worship	21 10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share 6:30pm ESL Class Deadline for May News	22 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm Music Cls. 7:00pm YA Disc. 8:00pm AA	23 10:00am IFC 7:00pm Bible Study	24 6:30pm Govern Bd 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 7:00pm WorshipTm Rehearsal	25 10:00am IFC	26 10:30am Teen Discipleship 5:00pm Women's Discipleship
27 9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 1:00pm Centro Esp. Worship	28 10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share 6:30pm ESL Class	29 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm Music Cls. 7:00pm Y Worship 8:00pm AA	30 10:00am IFC 7:00pm Prayer Service			
Note: Centro Esperanza MN activities are indicated by <i>ITALICS</i>						

Mt. Hope Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 1:00pm-5:00pm

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
3601 W Old Shakopee Rd
Bloomington, MN 55431



Address Service Requested



This is a monthly publication of Mt. Hope Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Bloomington, MN. Any submissions for the newsletter need to be into the office by the 20th of the month. Publication is generally around the 25th, with the goal of being sent out/available to members by the end of the prior month. It is also available for viewing/download from our website.

Other reading material currently available at the church:



- **April** MN South District News
 - **Spring** Lutheran Women’s Quarterly
 - **Apr-Jun** Portals of Prayer
 - **Apr/May/Jun** Sagacity Senior News
 - **Spring** LWML MN South news
- ...and more!

Sunday Services Online at:
YouTube Channel: [Mount Hope Lutheran Church](#)
Facebook: [Mount Hope Lutheran Ch, Bloomington, MN](#)

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**Mt. Hope’s
2025 Governing Board**

Al Johnson
Bart Killam
David Schleifer
Fran Wallin
Ina Adams
Kathy Sundseth
Kirsten Buelow
Lloyd Quittschreiber
Pastor Fran Green
Vern Traetow