

March 2026



Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

Words from Pastor Fran

We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit. Ephesians 2:21-22 (NLT)

We are going to spend our Sundays in March in a sermon series titled, *I Love My Church*. Now, I am not trying to put words in your mouth, but we are going to focus why each and every one of us should “love my church”. And, not only each and every one of us in the church, but our neighborhoods and communities as well. Why? Because the church is the hope of the world! We will unpack all of that in the month of March.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (ESV)

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| ‡ March 1 – <i>Who is the Church?</i> | ‡ March 29 – <i>Palm Sunday</i> |
| ‡ March 8 – <i>My Church is a Place to Make a Difference</i> | ‡ April 2 – <i>Maundy Thursday</i> |
| ‡ March 15 – <i>My Church is a Family</i> | ‡ April 3 – <i>Good Friday</i> |
| ‡ March 22 – <i>My Church is the Hope of the World</i> | ‡ April 5 – <i>Easter</i> |

Each of these services will be wonderful opportunities to invite a friend or neighbor to join you in worship. In particular, I am offering a challenge to each of you! The challenge will be that everyone who comes to worship on Easter will bring a guest with them. We’ve called this “Invite your one”, a “Big Day”, etc., in the past. But the point is that we are praying that the Lord’s House will be full on Resurrection Day as we celebrate our Lord’s Victory!

The book of *Acts* gives us the most beautiful picture of the church at the beginning of its existence.

The Believers Form a Community

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (NLT)

I love my church, don’t you?

Finally, thank you to everyone who sent cards, text messages, email, phone calls following my knee replacement surgery. They always seemed to come at just the right time when I needed some encouragement or a boost during the day. Thank you!

Our Mission is to Reach our Friends and Neighbors with the Truth, Love, and Hope of Jesus Christ while growing as His disciples.

Your Friend,

Pastor Fran Green

Loved and Blessed



Have you ever sneezed in public or in the company of family members? I'm sure we all have. And I'm sure someone often says, "**Bless you!**" Stop and think about the *Why*—because it is almost instinctive to say this or to say "**God bless you.**" Interestingly, these phrases, which have become a universal reaction in many cultures, have a rich tapestry of history behind them.

The tradition of saying "**God bless you**" upon sneezing dates back to ancient times. One of the earliest recorded is from the year 590 AD, during the reign of Pope Gregory I. Because a plague was ravaging Europe, the Pope ordered that anyone who sneezed should immediately be blessed to invoke divine protection against illness. But even before this, the ancient Greeks and Romans believed sneezing was an omen and that a response was needed to show respect to the divine. And in many other cultures people hoped to ensure the heart would continue to beat and the soul remain intact.

Though the phrases are both polite, they carry a slightly different meaning. Saying "**Bless you!**" is often a cultural or social gesture of kindness. While the Bible does not command us to say "**God bless you,**" doing so adds spiritual intention. It connects kindness with faith. And it recognizes a higher power that guides and protects.

If we truly want blessing to occur, there are a few things we can do.

We can bless people by praying for them, being specific with our petitions to the Lord

We can ask the Lord's favor on events and situations.

We can bless God through praise and thanksgiving for His character and what He's done in both our life and the lives for whom we intercede. (*Psalm 104:1*)

What I've shared is important, but we must recognize also that there is a greater purpose of blessings. Yes, it is God's nature to bless, but we need to understand that His purpose is more than likely greater than we realize. His ultimate goal is far more expansive than just to make you or me happy and prosperous. He wants His blessings to overflow and pour out to others even to the whole world. He is always acting with the larger picture in mind even if we can only recognize minute details in an individual life.

The Lord blesses us so that His salvation, ways, and justice may be known to every nation and people group. (*Psalm 67*) We each have a part in helping others to come to know and understand the one true God. And knowing this should fill us with awe and a humble sense of significance. Why, because each of His blessings benefits us and at the same time helps to further His purposes.

So, when life throws that curve ball against us or we feel we are on a ship in a rough sea without an anchor, remember the Lord is blessing us. He is not only doing something for us; He is doing something in and through us. Never forget the gift of the Christmas birth and the sacrificial gift of love given on that cross at calvary. How, then, can we not say we are **Loved and Blessed!**

Blessings,

Fran Wallin

***References:** - In Touch devotional
- biblehub.com
- courageouschristianfather.com

Events, Activities & This-n-That

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Adult Bible Study

10:45am in the Library

Sunday School

10:45am—Conference Room

Mondays - Grief Share 1-3pm

Grief Share 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 @ 2:00

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



Fridays—Prayer & Renewal

10:00am on Friday mornings, join us for some time of prayer and renewal, sharing and reflection. Contact Katrina if you have any questions.

ONGOING EVENTS

1st Sunday of the Month

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 **April** birthday cards in the narthex. Write a bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mt. Hope who have birthdays in April. We’re always one month ahead so when the new month begins, we can start distributing the greetings.



And, if you have been a long time member at Mt. Hope, we should have your birthday on file. If you are not a member and/or somewhat new to our church, we might not have your birth date. We would love to include you in our birthday card greeting program. Just give your name and birth date to Pastor Fran, Kerry M. (612-709-4824) or the church office.

First Thursday Book Club



Book Club will take a break in March. Check the weekly announcements for our book for April.

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 952-707-1881. *Fran W.*



We continue to use the wonderful series titled, *Silent Witnesses* authored by Arden Mead for our mid-week Lent services, each Wednesday evening @6:30pm.

The thorns, the robe, the nails, the spear, the shroud, the stone—if these things could speak, what might they tell us? The chief speaker each week takes the role of one of the things associated with our Lord’s suffering and death, describing and interpreting the events and their meaning from that object’s point of view.

Mid-Week Lent Themes:

- ✠ March 4 – The Nail
- ✠ March 11 – The Spear
- ✠ March 18 – The Shroud
- ✠ March 25 – The Stone

WOMEN OF HOPE

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8*



Lent is a wonderful reminder of how much Christ has and continues to do for us through his powerful victory on the cross.

- The Women of Hope had a regular meeting January 10 and then a special Valentine Tea planning meeting January 25th. One of our main focuses was on our largest annual outreach event which was the **Valentine Tea** on February 14. On that day, we enjoyed seeing many of our Mt. Hope women and also many of our neighbors and other friends. We served 56 ladies lunch! (Below: Pictures of the day)
- We continue to **serve the needs of our church** and will assist in extra Lent/Easter meals and other events.
- We are actively looking for **volunteers** to take a Sunday to oversee the coffee and treats. Yes, it can just be one Sunday! Contact Darlene W. if you can help.
- And we would like to **increase our treat choices** of what to put out on Sunday mornings. We currently have a good supply of cookies so we'd like to add more bars, mini muffins, etc. Just put your treats in the left side of the freezer in the kitchen.
- Our **next regular meeting** will be Saturday, March 14 at 9:30AM. We will be planning special Lent/Easter preparations, the April Spring LWML Rally at St. Michael's, and the May Ladies' Lunch Out.

It is always good to be together as we love and serve remembering Christ came not to be served but to serve us!

- ♥ The power of the cross is LOVE.
- ♥ The power of the cross is FORGIVENESS.
- ♥ The power of the cross is SALVATION.

Thank You Jesus!



Valentine's Tea was a wonderful, fun-filled event highlighted by the singing group "Heartfelt" for the main program and the witty "Lena Sideways" as the mealtime entertainment. And thanks to the ladies who worked behind the scenes making sure the day went smoothly!





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 "Fantastic Four" on March 1st at Redemption Lutheran (927 E. Old Shakopee Rd). See you there!



Also, for Lent, Redemption is offering a 11:00am Lent worship option.



VEAP Report for March:

- Two deliveries have been made to VEAP since the Feb. newsletter was published. On Jan. 29th a delivery of 90 lbs., and on Feb. 17th a delivery of 137 lbs. making a total of 227 lbs. A volunteer commented that the community is really stepping up, providing donations at a critical time of need. VEAP is providing what is called Care Packs, which a \$30 donation will help fill and deliver a Care Pack to feed a family for one week. Another option is to provide items for the Care Packs. Those would include: pasta and sauce, canned fruits & vegetables, peanut butter & jelly, canned protein (tuna, chicken, beans), rice, soup, toilet paper & soap. VEAP is supplementing Care Packs with perishable food items. March continues to be VEAP's Major Food and Fund Drive (Mar. 1-Apr. 6). Any help you can provide either with cash or food donations is always greatly appreciated, and many thanks for the 227 lbs. of food recently donated!

Karen Mueller, Ministry Partner Rep.



The Gathered Table will be hosting a brunch at Mt. Hope on Palm Sunday, March 29th at 10:30am. All are invited!

Chef Jaylen Lyles



Their next soup pick up date is Thur. March 26th from 5:30-7:30pm. Check their website after March 1st for the choice of soups to be available.

www.thegatheredtablemn.com/menu

Thrivent Choice® Making generosity easy



If you have a Thrivent account, don't forget to direct Choice Dollars to the organization of your choice by March 31st! Instructions on how you can do that can be found at the info center in the narthex.



Memories of Home is a unique gift and home décor business that is an intentional beautiful blending of products.

Their faith-based merchandise is encouraging and uplifting to remind individuals of the

much-needed message of Jesus' love and forgiveness.

They are located at 9635 Anderson Lakes Pkwy (off Hwy 169 next to Jerry's Foods) and is owned and operated by Joann Shockey (wife of Pastor Shockey@St. Peter's Lutheran, Edina) Ph.: 612-799-6189

Website: memoriesofhomestore.com

March Celebrations!!

BIRTHDAYS

3/4 Al Johnson
3/10 Orpha Radford
3/10 Ruth Townsend
3/10 Emily Vogland
3/16 Erica McMullen
3/18 Debbie Lingen
3/20 Maria Killam
3/21 Lloyd Quittschreiber
3/21 Bella Blauvelt
3/21 Bella Blauvelt
3/24 Darlene Buelow
3/27 Vivian Brantner

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Drew Blauvelt
3/4 Harriet Buelow
3/6 Katie Jacob
3/10 Hadley Lang
3/10 Holden Lang
3/18 Zachery Brantner
3/20 Candy Frein
3/20 Al Johnson
3/20 Todd Mack
3/23 Karen Mack
3/23 Anika Quittschreiber
3/27 Charlotte Rosner
3/27 Jack Rosner
3/27 Penelope Rosner

ANNIVERSARIES

3/1 Kirk & Dorene Vogland – 41yr
3/8 Jerry & Harriet Buelow – 68yr
3/24 Bart & Maria Killam – 42yr



Serving in March

Coffee/Kitchen/Receptions: Volunteers

Altar: Linda Quittschreiber and Darlene Wendt

Elders: 3/1 - Dave S., 3/8 - Al J., 3/15 - Steve S., 3/22 - Richard E., 3/29 - Dave S.

Altar Flowers

Mar. 1 – Kirk & Dorene Vogland—in celebration of their anniversary

Mar. 8 – #1 - Jerry & Harriet Buelow—in celebration of their anniversary
#2 - Eduardo Arvid—to beautify the sanctuary

Mar. 15 – Kirsten Buelow - in thankfulness for God's blessings for our church

Mar. 22 – open

Mar. 29 – open



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 **2026 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 612-408-4084 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.

March 2026

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

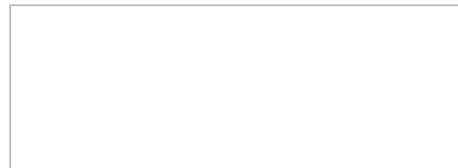


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 5px;"> <p>Don't Forget SPRING FORWARD March 8th</p>  </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px;"> <p>March 20th Spring</p>  </div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px;"> <p>H W O L E Y K</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>3/29-4/5</p> </div> </div>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 11:30am <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share	2:00pm Tues@2 4:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>Faith Fndtn</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Disc.</i> 8:00pm AA	10:00am IFC 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Lent Worship 7:00pm Bible Study	10:00am Prayer Mtg 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 7:00pm Worship Tm Rehearsal	10:00am IFC 10:00am PrayerTime 7:00pm Leaders Discipleship	10:30am Teen Discipleship
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 11:30am <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share	2:00pm Tues@2 4:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>Faith Fndtn</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Disc.</i> 8:00pm AA	10:00am IFC 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Lent Worship 7:00pm Bible Study	10:00am Prayer Mtg 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 7:00pm Worship Tm Rehearsal	10:00am IFC 10:00am PrayerTime 7:00pm Marriage Discipleship	9:30am Women of Hope
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 11:30am <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share	2:00pm Tues@2 4:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>Faith Fndtn</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Disc.</i> 8:00pm AA	10:00am IFC 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Lent Worship 7:00pm Bible Study	10:00am Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Govern Bd 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 7:00pm Worship Tm Rehearsal	Deadline for April News	10:00am Men's Discipleship 10:30am Teen Discipleship 5:00pm Hope Hub
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am Worship 10:45am Ed. Hour 11:30am <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share	2:00pm Tues@2 4:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>Faith Fndtn</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Disc.</i> 8:00pm AA	10:00am IFC 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Lent Worship 7:00pm Prayer Service	10:00am Prayer Mtg 5:30-7:30pm Gathered Table Pick-up 7:00pm Bible Prep. Institute 7:00pm Worship Tm Rehearsal	10:00am IFC 10:00am PrayerTime 9:30pm Vigil	
Palm Sunday 29	30	31	Mt. Hope Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 1:00pm-5:00pm			
9:30am Worship 10:30am Brunch 11:30am <i>Centro Esp. Worship</i>	10:00am IFC 1:00pm Grief Share	2:00pm Tues@2 4:30pm <i>Music Cls.</i> 7:00pm <i>Faith Fndtn</i> 7:00pm <i>YA Worship</i> 8:00pm AA	Note: Centro Esperanza MN activities are indicated by <i>ITALICS</i>			

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:



- **March** MN South District News
- **Spring** Lutheran Women's Quarterly
- **Jan-Mar** Portals of Prayer
- **Jan/Feb/Mar** Sagacity Senior News
- **Winter** LWML MN South news
- **...and more!**

Sunday Services Online at:

YouTube Channel: [Mount Hope Lutheran Church](#)

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

Mount Hope's Staff

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Pastor

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Katrina Wessel

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Mt. Hope's

2026 Governing Board

David Schleifer, Pres.

Fran Wallin, V. Pres.

Ina Adams, Sec.

Kirsten Buelow, Trea.

At Large Members:

Al Johnson

Bart Killam

Lloyd Quittschreiber

Kathy Sundseth

Vern Traetow

Pastor Fran Green