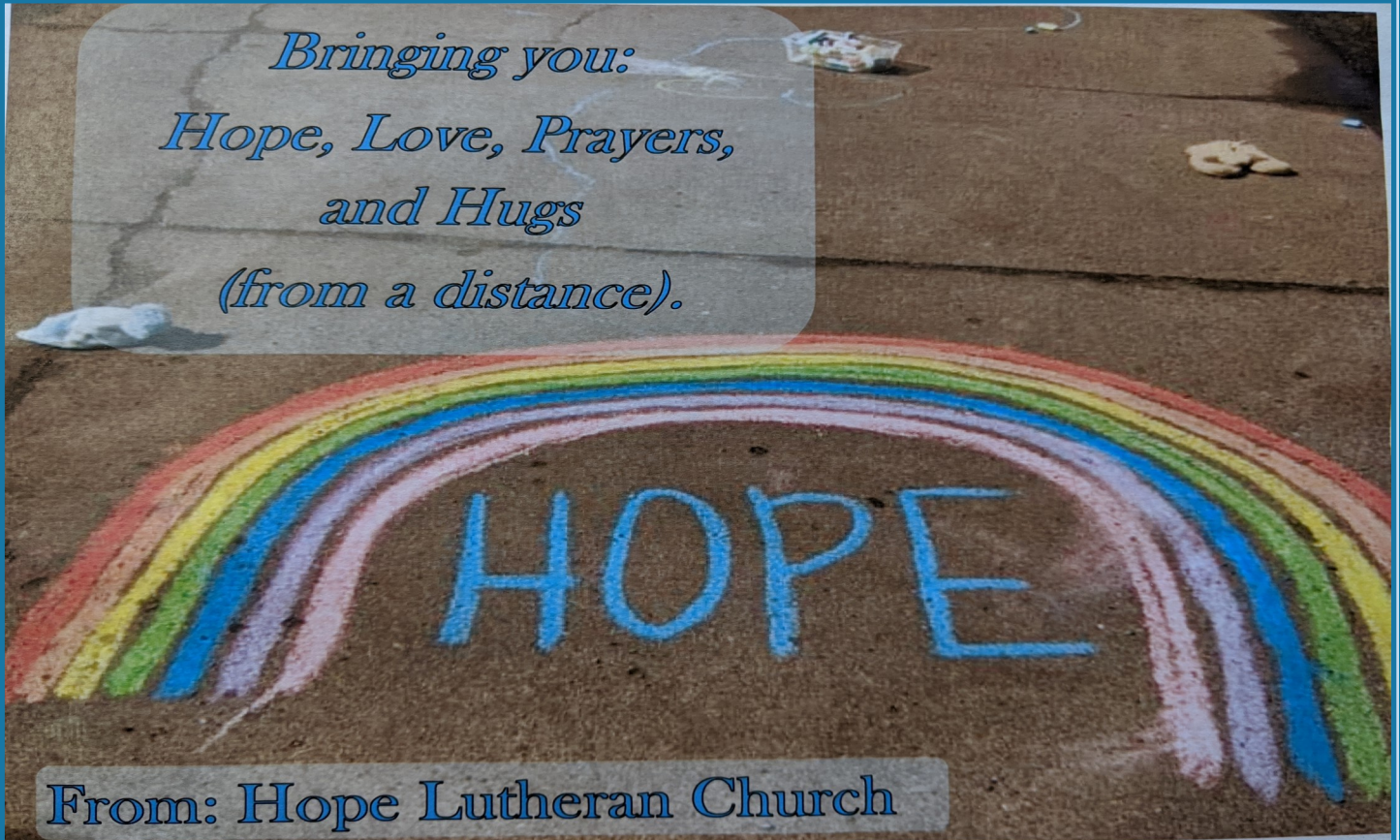


The Voice of Hope



Welcoming, Worshipping, Serving
May 2020

*Bringing you:
Hope, Love, Prayers,
and Hugs
(from a distance).*



From: Hope Lutheran Church



**Happy
Belated
Birthday
Allen!!**



Dear Partners in Ministry,

We continue to navigate uncharted waters with our daily life routines altered dramatically. We practice social distancing, wear facial masks, and do the best we can to learn how to care for one another in new ways. It is naturally quite stressful trying to learn so many things all at once. A special word of thanks to all of you for your patience with us as we try to provide a meaningful worship experience by continuing to record the Sunday service for the local cable station and for viewing on both Facebook and our website. The call in to hear the service live did not work well so we discontinued that. Thank you for all who have helped and continue to help provide leadership for our services. Special thanks to Lee Mogen, Deacon Wendy, as well as other musicians, readers, and camera operators.

The pandemic has disrupted plans for adding a second worship service on

Sundays in May, receiving new members, recognition of graduates, affirmation of baptism for our confirmands, and so much more. Although there is much we cannot do, many other good things have been happening behind the normal scenes. Council members, Friends in Faith, and others have been checking in with others in the congregation to see how they are doing. I have also been making phone calls and am about 1/4th of the way through the membership list in this first go around.

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, our bookkeeper Beth Lee and I submitted an application for the Paycheck Protection Program of the Small Business Administration. We were approved for a loan at the interest rate of 1%--which has a payback time of two years though much of the loan can be forgiven. On April 20th, \$36,500 was deposited in our bank account. This money is to be used for payroll, interest on the mortgage and utility bills.

We have begun the process of applying for refinancing the church mortgage with Ernie Muller taking the lead in that process. By extending the mortgage out to 15 years we would

reduce the monthly mortgage payment by nearly \$3,000 a month.

We would also reduce the interest rate from 4.75% to 4.25%. Of course, we would make extra payments on the principal when the money was available which we expect it will. The mortgage refinancing will require a congregational vote and we will work out the logistics of that and provide more details when we get to that step. The council also continues to spend part of their meeting time updating the constitution which will also require a congregational vote. You have elected a great group of leaders to represent you and they are a delight to work with as partners in ministry.

We continued to receive 5th Sunday Offerings toward debt retirement in April and have now passed the \$10,000 mark. May also has 5 Sundays so the church council, Deacon Wendy and I invite you to join us again in this endeavor to contribute an offering for debt retirement.

All of us are eager to be able to gather together for face to face worship and coffee with friends. However, it is important that we continue to follow good and safe health practices until the

medical experts give us the OK. That fact was brought home to me with the death of a personal friend who was a victim of Covid-19. Thank you to all who have expressed sympathy to me and for the prayers for his friends and family. It is deeply appreciated.

I am new to Facebook and if you would like to be added to my Friends list just send me a request. I am finding this is a good way to share my thoughts with the posts I make each day as well as learning what others are thinking. Some of my friends think radically different from me but we remain friends. Treating one another with respect and trying to understand the other's perspective on all this is important.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any cares or concerns you might have--especially with prayer requests. Please pray for me as well. Take care, stay safe, and don't forget to wash your hands.

**Your brother in Christ and
partner in ministry,**

Pastor Larry

I have decided to step way out of my comfort zone and try something new during this time of isolation. I am experimenting with some Alcohol Inks to see what they are all about and maybe even create something I might actually want to keep....lol.

Take Care....hope you are finding your way through this difficult and challenging time.

-Deb Ohlgren



Thank you Pastor Larry, Wendy and all those providing music for the online Sunday services. Your continuing efforts to make it work are much appreciated.

-Stone

Ron Goetzinger has been using his time at home with his carving tools in hand and the results are amazing!! Such a talent!



Happy Easter! Jesus has Risen!!!!

Never in all my life did I ever think we would be living with Shelter in Place and doing ministry from a distance. I have learned so much about technology along with things I don't care to learn about, but here we are. Ministry with our families has been a great experience. I have been talking with families individually and face-timing too! No, its NOT the same, but we are still connected. I have been doing Facebook live weekly stories and Holy Week. Those have reached an amazing number of people. Something I would have never imagined in my life.

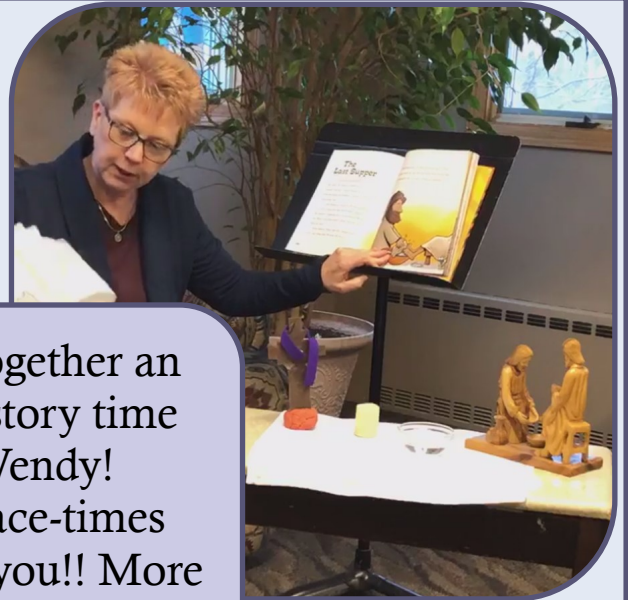
Those who know me, know I will always find the bright spot in life and learn from past experiences; I grow more patience, understanding and empathy in this journey called life. Randy and I have been through many medical situations, I talk about the rearview mirror. As we journey through whatever it is, I look forward to looking in the rearview mirror to watch how God is present in our life and the miracles he performs each day. I have said to a few people when this is over we can look in the rearview and see how God was present in Covid-19.

What will May look like? This issue will go to print tomorrow, so we won't know if we will be Shelter In Place or Social Distancing in May, either way, we will be sharing Jesus' love in whatever way we can. Please check our web-site for details.

Love you all and stay safe,

Wendy

Zoom meeting with 8th graders and advisors.
Thank-you Wendy!



-Putting together an altar and story time with Wendy!
-Youth Face-times with all of you!! More to come!



Women of Hope Board Meeting – May 13th at 9:30 a.m.

Summer Bible Study Retreat – YES OR NO?

Currently the Summer Bible Study Retreat in July is on hold. Please watch for information concerning this as we look for direction as to what we should do.

SUMMER GATHERING

The Women of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Summer Gathering for 2020 has been cancelled.

Pennies from Heaven

Pennies when added up make quite an impact on the world. The Women of Hope have been collecting pennies for many years and each year they are given to different areas of need in our Kettle River Conference. These are given at the Spring Gathering and because this was cancelled, they will be handed in at the Fall Gathering which is scheduled to be held here at Hope Lutheran. No dates or times have been set and so watch for information concerning this.

Circle Dates

Priscilla Circle – Wednesday, May 20th, 9:00 a.m.

Mary Circle – Thursday, May 21st, 1:30 p.m.

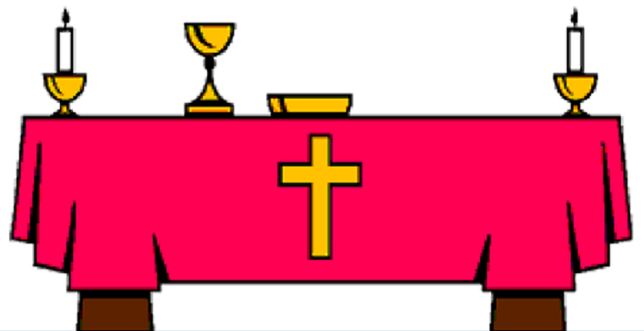
Martha Circle – Kenwood Place, Tuesday, May 19th 10:00 a.m.

Mary Circle will be helping with Holy Communion at the nursing home for May.

Altar Guild for May

Grayce Peterson
Paula Arnold

Communion Bread: Barb Lang



Busy Bees has been collecting items for in-kind mission of personal care kits during Lent. We wish to thank everyone who has generously participated.

Due to the Coronavirus, the opportunity to participate in our mission was shortened. Our plan is to extend this mission into the fall. Please check The Voice of Hope for future updates.

Barb Adams

Coincidence or Godcidence?

My sister Esther and I lived near each other and we were very close. My husband Archie, after fighting cancer for 6 years, died suddenly on August 6 of a dissected aorta just as his cancer was spreading to his spine. Esther died 2 months later on October 15 of lung cancer. She had wanted some of her ashes tossed in Lake Superior near where she had once lived. I was planning on doing it with my other sisters but their health did not allow that so one beautiful September morning the following fall, I decided to go up by myself. I called ahead to reserve a room south of Grand Marais for that evening. However, I did not drive straight up there. I stopped at many of the places Archie had enjoyed. I got by the motel about 4 p.m. and wondered if I should check in or go to the shore first.

I decided to keep going and arrived at the Coast guard station just in time to hear a man practicing Amazing Grace on his bagpipes. I went up to him and explained that I wanted to disperse a few of my sister's ashes into the lake and that had been her favorite hymn. Would he mind going to the shore with me and playing it again. He said he would be honored to do that and we walked down. The fluffy white clouds in the deep blue sky set off the beauty of the waves that the brisk wind had created. He played as I threw the ashes into the air. As the ashes were carried away in the wind, it felt as if a heavy weight had been lifted from my shoulders and went with them. He then said he would play the "walking away song" as we went back to the parking lot. He finished by giving me a hug and went on his way.


Was it a coincidence that I arrived there just as he was practicing? I had decided to go that morning without planning ahead. I had stopped several times along the way to recall good times along the shore with my husband. I kept going instead of stopping at my motel. The result was a healing moment I could not have planned.

Coincidence or Godcidence?

I know my answer.

Eleanor Eskuri

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*I asked the Lord for a bunch of fresh flowers
but instead He gave me an ugly cactus with many thorns
I asked the Lord for some beautiful butterflies
but instead He gave me many ugly dreadful worms.
I was threatened
I was disappointed
But after many days.....suddenly,
I saw the cactus blossom with many beautiful flowers
And the worms became beautiful fireflies flying in the wind
God's way is the best way.*

Chung Ming Kao from prison



There's a Song in My Heart

July usually brings songs in our hearts with the gathering of Sand Lake Choir. We look forward to that weekend and to the Courier Quartet to bring songs of joy, hope, strength to us in this annual event of over 60 years. Many people have helped to make this weekend a success, it is a beloved tradition. This year we will postpone our concert till next year when we will bring renewed enthusiasm to our music. "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."



Prayer Concerns

Pat Farrell
 Marie Paulson
 Mary Helfman
 Jay Vargas
 Doris Koivisto
 Anne Koski- Shelly Schaffer's Mom
 Gerry Krumrie
 Aaron Lattu
 Ardella Pingeon
 Louise Enstrom
 Jan Benrud
 Pam Dragseth -friend Chuck and Carma Coon
 Laurence Kachinske
 Tony & Vanessa Smude
 Braxton Battaglia -granddaughter of Dave & Judy Paulson
 Louise Halverson
 Kay Graftaas
 Joey Cisar
 Vincent Sanges - father of Jill Juntunen
 Wendy Denton
 Family of Lori Zeug
 Edna Gurman
 Carol Pelletier
 Richard Bohm - brother of Carol Rentz
 Carol Liupakka
 Marilyn Vargas
 Luke Eller
 Steve Storebo - son of Rolly & Imy Johnson
 Scott Gay
 Ken Dahlberg
 David Fahland - friend of Ron & Cindy Zuk
 Jerry Langworthy - friend of Stones
 Linda Huhta- Holmstrom's Niece

Military Service

Brian Erola	Joey Whited
Robert Dedrowski	Jeremy Hill
Daniel Conley	Jeremy Johnson
Anthony Mandt	Scott Eckman
Jason Johnson	Gage Mohelsky
Mike Tolerico	Maddie Shatz
John Kachinske	Danny Whited
Alexis Babcock	



Larry Agurkis	2	Erin Anderson	19
Jennifer Mesojedec	3	Lyle Anderson	19
Sue Juszczak	4	Lance Nordstrom	19
Stephanie Rhodes	4	Addison Cadotte	20
Reese Nordstrom	5	Pauline Dee	20
Carol Carlson	6	Erin Battalia	21
Madeline Stewart	6	Andrew Burn	21
Blake Oquist	6	Renee Kachinske	21
Robert Hanson	7	Frankie Hedman	22
Lauren Pederson	7	Joseph Steen	22
Nickolas Skog	7	Don Adams	23
Abby Halonen	8	Kimberly Hansen	23
David Eckman	9	Grace Stephenson	23
Ron Peterson	9	Jason Bexell	24
Cooper Bexell	10	Landin Kurhajetz	24
Paul Riihiluoma	10	Abigail Lattu	24
Lori Wasche	10	Bambi Neumann	25
Janice Bendrud	11	Braja Scheurman	25
Alice Halonen	11	Jennah Nelson	26
Ann Haugen	11	Talon Nordstrom	26
Alexis Babcock	12	Wyatt Waseen	26
Jason Benzie	13	Donna Arnold	27
Peter Engstrom	14	Emily Klund	29
Ernie Holmstrom	14	Benjamin Steen	29
Evan Ballantine	15	Cindy Zuk	29
Eugene Gerard	15	Tiffany Benoit	30
Aiden Grimm	16	Terry Burn	30
Jerry Rude	16	Trina Lower	30
Laura Stephenson	16	Bo Moffett	30
Brette Burginger	17	Marilyn Vargas	30
Kaleb Weisert	17	Samuel Denton	31
Carter Riel	17	Melissa Gamst	31



Gil & Candice Gamst	4
Gordon & Barbara Overland	14
Robert & Dawn Moffett	21
Craig & Andrea Stevens	23
Shelley & David Shaffer	27
Ted & Deb Shaw	29

Besides those named on this page, please remember those not named suffering from chronic pain, or any other physical or mental issues. Especially remember those from our church family in assisted living or nursing homes, though not listed above unless health conditions deteriorate. They are: Lyle Almquist, Jan Ecklund, Carol Carlson, Helen Maltby, Annette Dahlmeier, Ardella Pingeon and Gene Gerard. Pray for those that are homebound: Andi Carlson, Gordy Paulson and Irene McTaggart. There are also many who prefer not to be listed individually, but have requested private prayers.

Faith Story



When I was asked to write my faith story, I wished I could write a definitive description of faith that would inspire and inform people about what they should believe. I can't. I get very nervous when any person or group declares that they know exactly who God is or what He wants. When I first learned of the contradictions in different translations of the Bible and even between sections of the Bible, I knew there could be no literal set of directives I could follow. Finding the truth would be much more complicated. Right now, and I emphasize, right now, because faith evolves, I am focusing on the 2 great love commandments and Jesus's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. But instead of settling matters, that led to more questions.

~How do I love everyone as myself and how do I love myself without it turning into selfishness?

~Where is the line between helping and enabling?

~How do I prioritize my limited resources when deciding how to feed the hungry, help the poor and visit those in need?

~What is my responsibility as a citizen to have input into state and national politics?

~How do I communicate with Christians who answer those questions very differently than I do?

I also believe I can learn from Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim faiths about how to love man and God. My faith says, "I don't know" a lot. My faith and my hope is that if I keep listening, reading, exploring and praying, some day I will know the answers to these questions. It just might not be in this life.

Eleanor Eskuri

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Permit No. 44
Moose Lake, MN

Worship Schedule

***Sunday 9:00 am**

***Informal Family Praise**

Wednesday's at 6:30

www.hopeofmooselake.com
hopelutheran204@msn.com
218-485-4673

**Check out
the
Website!**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church of America**

May 2020

C. S. Lewis~~~~ 1942

SATAN: "I will cause anxiety, fear and panic.
I will shut down businesses, schools,
places of worship and sporting events.
I will cause economic turmoil".

JESUS: "I will bring together neighbors, restore the
family unit,
I will bring dinner back to the kitchen
table,
I will help people slow down their lives
and appreciate what really matters,
I will teach my children to rely on me
and not the world.
I will teach my children to trust me and
not their money and material resources."

This is a paraphrased quote from C.S. Lewis that
was written in 1942 when our country was in the
middle of WWII.

**What you have been up to
during our Shelter in
place time? Writing, read-
ing, drawing, painting,
puzzles, calling loved
ones, using different tech-
nology (like Wendy),
walking, biking, carving,
cooking, ANYTHING?
Send in pictures, or write
us a little something.**

**I would love to share
what everyone is up to
these days! We all miss our
church family near and
far!**

Steph