

MOUNT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE CALLING

FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
AS YOURSELF.

MATTHEW 22:39



**Ash Wednesday**  
March 1, 2017

**12:00 p.m.**  
**Ash Wednesday Service**  
*Imposition of ashes*  
Chapel

**5:30–6:45 p.m.**  
**Soup Supper**  
Fellowship Hall

**7:00 p.m.**  
**Ash Wednesday Service**  
*Imposition of ashes*  
Sanctuary

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**Wednesdays in Lent**  
March 8, 15, 22, 29,  
April 5

**5:30-6:45 p.m.**  
**Soup Supper**  
Fellowship Hall

**7:00-7:30 p.m.**  
**Holden Evening Prayer**  
Sanctuary

## *Pastor's Corner*

We often hear people say, “we tend not grateful for something until we lose it”. Very true. Right now, sitting at my desk at the end of January, I miss the sunshine. We have had nine straight days of rain, fog, and clouds with more of the same for the next week. I would be grateful for just a little sunshine these days, and I know you feel the same. Give me snow, cold, and things like that. I can take it; but these days without the sun are depressing. So a little sunshine, even if it is 5 degrees outside, would be a welcome sight indeed!

Our faith life can feel like this too. There are times when we may feel God is very distant. Perhaps just the dreariness of our routines sometimes causes us to feel unconnected to the vibrancy of the faith that we have felt at other times. Or perhaps we are suffering physically, mentally, or emotionally because of something that

has happened that has knocked us off our course. We may ask, “Where are you, Lord?”

Even in these “down times”, however, we can always point to something or many things for which we are grateful. Sin causes us to see only what we lack, but faith teaches us to see God’s love and care in abundance. Gratitude

is a spiritual gift, and from this gift many others come forth – generosity being one of them.

So even if I miss the sun again today, I can still feel grateful for the seasons of the year, and look forward to brighter days that will come again!

Pastor Brian



## *Mission Outreach*

The Mission Outreach Committee is in the process of reviewing its own mission and responsibilities. Never a dull moment! We did choose to focus our Missions at Mount Hope as well as expand Hope Closet to include a Pantry for our clients' needs for 2017.

Thanks to Mount Hope members who have generously supported the Hope Closet and Good Samaritan with clothing and food donations. These are year-long ways to be God's hands in our community.

The Sunday School youth will be collecting funds for ELCA Good Gifts – they will sponsor an animal for a community somewhere in

our world. Help them with their purchase please.

Also on the Fireside Room table is 2017 Serenity Inn sign up. We serve dinner to an average of 10 guys who are on the road to recovery once a month (from 5:30-7:00 p.m.). Go with a friend...sign up with someone who is already signed up so you can help and also experience the work and love that is Serenity Inn. We only serve 12 times a year... certainly Mount Hope has 24 members who can give one meal and 1 and 1/2 Hour once a year? Any questions see Mike Demeter or Kathy Zingsheim.

Thank you, Greg Jansen, and Mike Demeter for your

service and advice this year.

Members who will be part of the 2017 committee so far are:

Donna Jonasen representing Hope Closet,

Lynne Loosen representing our Congregation,

Linda Melbard representing Hephatha partnership,

Linda Helminski representing Hope Pantry,

Geoff Nurse representing Council, and

Kathy Zingsheim.

## *President's Pen*

This month you have a new Congregation Council with new officers. We plan to focus on the Priorities and Goals as discussed at the Annual Meeting. As we strengthen our core, through Council, Boards, By Laws and Policies, we are able to be stronger within our church and in the community.

Big thank you's to outgoing Council Members Glen Norton, Robyn Schuchardt, Mike Berkhahn and Lynne Loosen. I also thank Donna Ihlenfeld, our Parish Secretary, for all her daily work, plus all the extra printing, collating, stapling and mailing she does for us, to name just a bit.

As a council we look forward to strengthening our base and providing more opportunities for all of you to serve, learn and glorify God.

In His Service,  
Cathy Hinrichs  
Council President

## *2017-2018 Congregation Council*

### **Officers:**

Cathy Hinrichs,  
President

Keith Paukner  
Vice President

Paul Cannestra  
Secretary

Kathy Solberg  
Treasurer

### **Members at-large:**

Greg Jansen  
Geoff Nurse  
Lynda Taylor

## *February Celebrations*

### **Special Birthdays:**

*Celebrating 90+*  
Delores Schmidt—91

### **Special Wedding Anniversaries:**

*Celebrating 50+*  
John & Joanne  
Novak—58

Dick & Marlene  
Koch—64

## *Youth Mission Team*

The Mission Team chefs will host our annual **Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 4, 4:30-7:00 p.m.** Treat your family to a delicious meal of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and yummy desserts. \$5 per ticket (children 2 and under free). Advanced tickets will be available between church services in February, and also at the door. While you're at the dinner check out the silent auction. We will have lots to bid on including sports packages, baskets and other great items.

### **Auction Donations:**

If you would like to donate items for the auction, we are asking for themed baskets. Please bring them to the church office during office hours or give them to a Mission Team member between church services prior to March 1. Please label the items "silent auction" and include the donor's name and value of the basket. Please contact Lisa Barbian (414-380-0916) with questions.

## *Sunday School Youth*

The votes have been counted and a winner has been chosen!!! The winner is....a COW!!! The Sunday School children are branching out on a global level and will be raising money to purchase a cow for a family in a third world country through ELCA's God's global barnyard. The children were given a coloring book showing the pictures of each of the animals to choose from and were asked to fill out a vote to decide which of the animals we, as a group, would save our money for. The children are very ambitious and chose a cow which has a price tag

of \$500.00. Through their efforts along with the support from families and the congregation I have no doubts that we will be able to purchase our cow by the end of this school year. The children will be doing various fund-raisers and together their little hands can make a big difference.

On February 10th, the 4th & 5th graders will be having a Valentine's party from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. There will be music, games, crafts, refreshments, and plenty of fun!! All 4th & 5th grade students are welcome, and they can bring their

friends. A permission slip will be on the Mount Hope Website and available in Sunday School class.

Thanks to Mount Hope for your continuing support of our wonderful children!!

In God's Peace,  
Colleen Hammerer  
Sunday School Director

## *Confirmation Youth*

The confirmation students had their dodge ball marathon to support the Hope Closet in January; and they raised \$950. There were 13 kids that played dodge ball for 6 hours. Thank you to all who donated to such a great cause. The dodge ball marathon ended up being a lock in; after they wore themselves out from playing dodge ball they watched movies and slept. The confirmation students will go shopping with the

money they raised as well as learning how the clothes are processed in the Hope Closet.

In February, the Confirmation students will be going to Library Square on a couple of Wednesday nights to participate in the Wii bowling league with the residents. Last year it seemed both the residents and the confirmation students enjoyed the time they shared together.

Lastly, if anyone wishes to help with planning confirmation activities or being a chaperone for various events please email me at [dconklyn75@gmail.com](mailto:dconklyn75@gmail.com) or call me at 414-426-9697.

Debbie Conklyn  
Coordinator

## Hope Closet

*A ministry for students in transition in the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District*

### The Hope Closet Continues to Touch Our Community!

December was a busy month for the Hope Closet! We invited all of the families we have served to come back for a few more items of clothing, plus extra socks and underwear, as well as winter-wear (hats, mittens, scarves). In addition, our moms were able to choose a toy for each child and wrap it while still at the Hope Closet so they could sneak the gifts home for Christmas. It was a joyful month filled with lots of smiles and hugs!

Since September 1, we have served 41 families with a total of 109 children. Each child is able to “spend” points and choose the clothing they need. During a typical shopping trip a student may receive a coat, a pair of shoes, 2 pairs of pants, 3 shirts, a sweater or hoodie, socks and underwear, and winter-wear (hats, mittens, scarves). Here are some examples of the number of items we have given out since September 1:

410 shirts	school-age children and
150 pairs of pants	now include infants and
147 pairs of jeans	toddlers, adult children,
56 coats	and parents.
80 pairs of shoes	
68 hoodies	



In addition to that, we have given out hundreds of pairs of socks and underwear as well as sweaters, leggings, slippers, and boots. Because we have seen that the entire family has needs, we have expanded our ministry beyond just

It is a great blessing that as we implement this ministry, we form relationships with our clients. We hear their stories and they walk away knowing that we are here for them. Many of our clients have returned for a second

visit, called when they needed a specific clothing item, or called about other needs. For example, if a student is going out for a sport, we will provide them with the necessary shoes and/or equipment. It is a great feeling to know that we can take down some of the barriers that would otherwise prevent these students from participating in an extracurricular activity.

We now know that the needs of our clients go far beyond clothing. There is often a shortage of food. When these families are forced to make a sudden move, they may not have furniture and other household items. Although we have responded sporadically with donations of food items, furniture, and kitchen items, we know that we need to have a more organized response. As a result, we propose starting the Hope Pantry—a food resource for our Hope Closet clients. Our goal is to have this ministry in place by summer, 2017. With God's perfect timing, this ministry is growing rapidly. We are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Thanks be to God!

## Mission Partner: Lutheran Social Services

### What You Can Give to a Foster Child

With a tremendous need for foster homes in Wisconsin, the Coalition for Children, Youth and Families recently took a look at what stops people from becoming foster parents:

*When it comes to fostering, we hear a lot of sentences starting with, "I could never..."*

*...say goodbye to a child."*

*...give them back."*

*...handle an older kid, I haven't been a parent."*

*But what if you focus on what you could do? It would become clear that you have so much to offer - so much more than you even know.*

For example:

**Are you great at managing a checkbook or figuring out a budget?** It's fulfilling to teach a foster teen those life skills. So many need to figure out things like how to apply for financial aid, find a job, pay rent or buy a car.

**Do people say you're a calming presence with a deep reserve of patience?** These are natural skills you can apply to fostering. Be a calming presence for kids who are away from their birth parents and don't understand why they can't go home yet.



**Foster care isn't about what you can't do; it's about what you can give to a child who needs your skills, abilities and experience. Lots of skills contribute to being a great foster parent, and you already have them!**

**Do you have health care skills or home care experience?** Some infants in foster care have a higher need for medical care. Not everyone is comfortable handling things like feeding tubes or daily physical therapy, but for you it may be second nature.

**Are you a high-energy person who loves to or-**

**ganize?** You would be great at keeping a foster child's schedule, documenting behaviors or managing medications. No one should assume that they don't have anything to offer to a foster child. To find out about becoming a foster parent, contact the LSS foster care team, 888-746-2850.

### Third World Mission Store

Do you know that the underemployed rate in Bangladesh is 40%. In South Africa it's 27%. Nelson Mandela once said, *"It is in your hands to make a better world for all who live in it."* Your ongoing support of the mission store shows that you have heard him.

New merchandise is here! Stop in the store and find something for your Valentine, or check out cart in the Fireside Room.

Pat Morris

### What's Up

Ahh.... February, the month of love. 2017 is flying by already and here we are talking about one of the most powerful words we know. It has many different meanings: "I love you" friends say to each other. "I love you" husbands & wives say to each other. "I love you" parents say to their children.. "Love" means 0-15 in tennis. And last, but not least, "I love chocolate" which is what you say after eating a very decadent piece of cake. Some people say, "I love

you", when saying goodbye. Some also believe that the word is used loosely and means less because of it. It IS one of the most positive words we can use and it has various meanings ...seems a positive thing to say it often and with meaning.

Pastor Brian's message one Sunday was about how God's love is most important of all! Jesus loves us and gave his life for us. This love is unconditional and all encompassing and is meant to be shared with

others every day, through all our lives. All the other meanings for love come out of THAT love which God has given to us. OUR job is to reach our highest potential in this life, and using God's love is how we do it...with friends, husbands, children, playing tennis & eating chocolate! Thanks God for the chocolate, the daily life lessons, and a great sense of humor!

Blessings and love,  
Judi Hertzfeldt



**Mount Hope Lutheran Church**  
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### How to Reach Us

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Website:  
www.mounthopelutheranchurch.org

Subscribe to our e-mail newsletter at  
www.mounthopelutheranchurch.org, or  
contact the church office.

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
(closed 12:00—1:00 p.m.)  
Friday 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

### Staff

**Rev. Brian Halverson**  
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### Colleen Hammerer

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### Tom Giesfeldt

Custodian  
414-541-9500 ext. 109  
e-mail: office@mounthopelutheranchurch.org

### Music Staff

#### Donna Jonasen

Worship Leader - 10:00 a.m.  
Music Coordinator

#### Jan Heins

Organist

#### Bonnie Jean Barczak

Hope Choir & Handbell Choir Director

#### Jill Dahlgren

Hope Choir Accompanist

#### Pat Kaiser

Instrumental Ensemble Director

### Congregation Council

Cathy Hinrichs, President  
Keith Paukner, Vice-President  
Paul Cannestra, Secretary  
Kathy Solberg, Treasurer  
Greg Jansen  
Geoff Nurse  
Lynda Taylor

# February 2016



## Wednesday, February 1

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Planning
- 7:00 pm Hope Choir

## Thursday, February 2

- 3-7:00 pm Hope Closet
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir
- 7:00 pm Mission Outreach Committee

## Friday, February 3

- 9:00 am Woman's Club of West Allis

## Saturday, February 4

- 9-12:00 pm Hope Closet

### 5:30 pm Worship

## Sunday, February 5

- 8:30 am Worship
- 8:45 am Instrumental Ensemble
- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:30 am Sunday School Teachers

## Monday, February 6

## Tuesday, February 7

- 7:30 am Women's Breakfast Group
- 9:30 am Diakonia Planning
- 2:00 pm Alzheimer's Support Group
- 7:30 pm Milwaukee Festival Chorus

## Wednesday, February 8

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 6:30 pm Confirmation Class at Library Square
- 6:30 pm Praise Band

- 7:00 pm Hope Choir

## Thursday, February 9

- 3-7:00 pm Hope Closet
- 6:00 pm Financial Mgmt. Committee
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir

## Friday, February 10

- 6:30 pm Confirmation Youth: Movie Night
- 6:00 pm 4th & 5th Grade Youth: Valentine's Party

## Saturday, February 11

- 9-12:00 pm Hope Closet
- 5:00 pm Blood Pressure Check
- 5:30 pm Worship
- 6:15 pm Blood Pressure Check

## Sunday, February 12

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:30 am Blood Pressure Check
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Blood Pressure Check
- 11:15 am Mission Team
- 11:30 am 3rd Grade Bible Class

## Monday, February 13

## Tuesday, February 14

### *Valentine's Day*

- 7:30 am Women's Breakfast Group
- 9:00 am Cleaning Crew
- 7:30 pm Milwaukee Festival Chorus

## Wednesday, February 15

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 1:00 pm Book Group
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 6:00 pm Board of Ministries
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 7:00 pm Hope Choir

## Thursday, February 16

- 3-7:00 pm Hope Closet

- 6:00 pm Facility Mgmt. Committee

- 6:30 pm Bell Choir

## Friday, February 17

## Saturday, February 18

- 8:00 am Diakonia Retreat
- 9-12:00 pm Hope Closet

### 5:30 pm Worship

## Sunday, February 19

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Confirmation Youth: Shopping
- 6:00 pm Serenity Inn Fellowship Dinner

## Monday, February 20

### *President's Day*

## Tuesday, February 21

- 7:30 am Women's Breakfast Group
- 6:00 pm Congregation Council
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 580
- 7:30 pm Milwaukee Festival Chorus

## Wednesday, February 22

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 6:30 pm Confirmation Class at Library Square
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 7:00 pm Hope Choir

## Thursday, February 23

- 3-7:00 pm Hope Closet
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir

## Friday, February 24

## Saturday, February 25

- 8:30 am Synod Cluster Assembly
- 9-12:00 pm Hope Closet

### 5:30 pm Worship

## Sunday, February 26

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Sunday School

## Monday, February 27

## Tuesday, February 28

- 7:30 am Women's Breakfast Group
- 9:00 am Cleaning Crew
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 580
- 7:30 pm Milwaukee Festival Chorus