

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

THE CALLING

MARCH 2017

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Pastor's Corner

"...we put
our trust in
God that
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us"

The month of March ushers in the season of Lent, and once again we reflect upon the Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. It is a time of inner reflection for us, as we look at our own journeys with Christ in this troubling time in which we live. Of course there has never been a time when the world wasn't troubled -- when justice and peace reigned throughout. We human beings have been in conflict since the beginning of time, but now we have 24 hour cable news in which we can watch conflict as it happens in real time.

In our own self-examinations we look at how we have played a part in conflict, how our ego or self-centered drive has led us to consider our own selves first and others secondly. Our quest to fill the emptiness we feel at times may lead us to want things that are not fulfilling in the long run. Our consumer culture promises us happiness if we just have this one more thing, if we buy just one more "can't do without" item. More often than not, we can do without it.

What we can't do without, however, is faith. Faith in God does not give us instant gratification. It does mean that we put our trust in God that wherever our journey takes us, God will be along side us. There is a deep contentment knowing that God will provide what we need, not always what we want. By placing our trust in God, that emptiness is filled with an eternal Spirit that

the world cannot give.

Let us look within ourselves and see where God is leading us, always taking into account our own ego that may want to go another way. Yet we know that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Christ. And his way is to Jerusalem and the cross.



*... He leads me
Beside still
waters;
He restores
my soul.*

Psalm 23:2-3, NRSV

President's Pen

I am writing to you with gratitude and thankfulness. Our Annual Meeting was well-attended. It's gratifying to see such involvement by our members.

Many people are stepping forward to accomplish many projects: The Rantanen's and Paukner's have just finished painting Fellowship Hall, the stairwell and upper hallways. They did it "just because it was needed". It looks clean and fresh, in time to host the Synod Cluster meeting here on February 25. Linda Melbard is organizing the Hephatha luncheons, so that ministry will continue, and Linda Helminski is organizing the Hope Pantry to provide food for the homeless students and their families whom we are already serving with clothing. Donna Jonasen and

Lynne Loosen, with several volunteers, continue to head up the Hope Closet. The feedback from the students has been very positive: not only do they receive needed clothing, but also feel cared for.

The website and Facebook pages continue to be good sources of information for all members.

Our Sunday School children set out to raise enough money to buy an animal through Lutheran Good Gifts for an impoverished family in another country. Thanks to your great generosity, they quickly raised enough for not only a cow (thinking big...), but also a pig and a bee hive! To very poor people these animals mean not only the food they provide, but also a means to share with others, and often enough

additional income that they are able to send their children to school, a great gift that is easy for us to take for granted.

The Alzheimer's Caregivers program has started. This is a welcome ministry for Mount Hope and our community.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we have been able to provide meals and fellowship here, at no cost to those attending.

We have many more "behind the scenes" workers whom I thank sincerely. Serving on Council is a pleasure, seeing this kind of joyful activity by our members.

In His Service,
Cathy Hinrichs
Council President

Around the Building

This is a first in new feature highlighting projects completed in our Mt. Hope Building. As always, our goal is to create a safe and attractive facility in which to worship, meet, and be a blessing to the community. We would like to thank Ann and Bob Rantanen

and Sandy and Keith Paukner for their excellent work painting the Fellowship Hall and the hallway leading all the way up the stairway and the upper hall. It looks bright and fresh. Ann and Bob also got rid of old paint and have organized the

remaining paint (no small thing). Also, the exterior front signage on the Youth Bldg. has been replaced with LED lighting, and track lighting has been installed above the sign up table in the Fireside Room making Mt. Hope a

brighter place. Twenty new chairs have been ordered and installed in the chapel. No more standing at the back of the room.

Facilities Management Group



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

Daily Lenten Devotions

"Walking Together in Hope" devotional is provided by Outreach for Hope. Visit outreachforhope.org to view or print, or have daily devotions delivered directly to your inbox. Paper copies are also available at the church office.

Sunday School Youth

On January 15th the Sunday school children voted to save money to purchase an animal through the ELCA Good Gifts program. The animal that won the vote was a cow at a price of \$500. Three fundraisers were held. The first fundraiser was a candy guessing game. You could purchase a guess for \$1 and the person who came closest without going over would win the container with candy. We had two containers and the two winners were Russ Hasler and Robyn Schuchardt. The

second fundraiser was purchasing a Hershey kiss rose with a donation and the final fundraiser was the selling of Seroogy candy bars by Dori with the proceeds going toward the cow fund.



During the services on Saturday and Sunday, February 18th & 19th the children thanked the congregation for their very

generous donations to the cow fund because they raised \$550. These funds



will be enough to purchase not only a cow but a pig and honey bees. We are very appreciative to everyone

for their support of the Sunday School children. The children will continue to bring in their weekly offerings and we will continue to save these funds for the purchase of more animals.

Thanks to 5th grader, Brianna Jendrzejek for planning a Valentine's party for the 4th & 5th graders. On Friday, February 10th, ten children enjoyed a night of playing Just Dance on the Wii, a game of tag, crafts, and snacks.

Finally, on Sunday, February 19th, the third graders received their very own Bibles which were donated through memorial funds. These children will always have the teachings of the Lord with them.

In God's Peace,
Colleen Hammerer
Sunday School Director

Boy Scout Troop 580



Troop 580 chartered by Mt. Hope has had a busy start to 2017. On February 5th Scout Sunday was celebrated at both of the morning services. Scouting was incorporated in America in 1910 and has been at Mt. Hope for more than 73 years. Scouts began the New Year with an outdoor polar bear campout. Over the next couple of months we will be camping in a cabin, a cave, and a submarine. On February 14th the third

Scout this year completed his board of review for Scouting's highest award, the Eagle. The three Scouts who join the ranks of Eagle are Devin Mieritz, Charles Dennert, and Luke Crotteau. Four additional Scouts should complete their Eagle Award within the next two months.

In addition, our Troop was selected as the Troop of the Year in the West Allis/Wauwatosa area.

This is an honor that the Troop has received 13 times out of a possible 15 years. The Troop has over 50 Scouts and over 40 adults who provide leadership. Scoutmaster David Loosen will be presented the highest volunteer recognition the local council of the Boy Scout organization gives for exceptional dedication to scouting and the community, the Silver Beaver Award, later in March.

Mission Outreach

The Mission Outreach Committee begins 2017 with the purpose being to coordinate the various outreach ministries and facilitate the ongoing mission of Mount Hope Church in all the special projects identified throughout the year. The committee will provide oversight to the outreach ministries of the church being accountable to the strategic plan incorporated by the Council and church membership.

The committee is comprised of those persons who are responsible for the outreach ministries of Mount Hope that are centered *within* the congregation.

The Mission Outreach Committee will have direct oversight for the

following ministries:

1. Hope Closet
2. Hope Food Pantry
3. Partnership with Hephatha
4. Partnership with Good Samaritan
5. Global Partnership with ELCA World Hunger Relief and Lutheran World Relief—Quilts

We have posted by the office and Fireside Room our 2017 missions for reference so all can plan on how and where they feel they can serve God and contribute.

We met with the Hephatha team in February and will continue to serve lunches four times a year. Dates will be March 5, May 28, August 6 and November 5. We

will worship with Hephatha members, attend Bible classes with the congregation and then serve lunch. Linda Melbard will coordinate this effort. A sign up sheet will always be in the Fireside Room to donate food and visit. Pastor Mary Martha stated Mount Hope is the longest running partner serving over 22,000 sloppy joes! We want to develop relationships and learn about BOTH our congregations and bridge the gap from West Allis to Milwaukee.

Mission Outreach Team:
Linda Helminski
Donna Jonasen
Lynne Loosen
Linda Melbard
Geoff Nurse
Kathy Zingsheim

for them to understand the process and where all the money that they raised went.

We also went to Library Square to play Wii bowling with the residents on the 8th and 22nd. It was a fun time for both the residents and the Confirmation students. It is great to see the

March Celebrations

Special Birthdays:
Celebrating 90+
Gale Guenther—92
Audrey Herden—91

Special Wedding Anniversaries:
Celebrating 50+
Donald & Pat Minturn—65

Ron & Janis French—52

Confirmation Youth

The confirmation students did their Hope Closet shopping with the proceeds from their dodge ball marathon. We took them to the Mayfair Collection to do some shopping at the discount stores; thanks to Lynda Taylor and Donna

Jonasen for helping us to shop and find some great deals. I think our best deal was the girls shoes we found at Oshkosh B'Gosh for \$7!! We also had a little time to help start processing the items we bought. Some of the Confirmation students had never been in the Hope Closet; it was a great learning experience

interaction across the generations doing something they enjoy.

Coming up in March: combined Confirmation/Senior High movie night and a bowling trip.

Debbie Conklyn
Coordinator

Third World Mission Store

New merchandise has arrived! We have great items for Spring and Easter. Stop at the Third World Mission Store, or check out the cart in the Fireside Room. Our artisan partners throughout the world really appreciate your continued support!

See the latest Certificate of Appreciation and letter posted on the bulletin board in the hallway next to the store.

Pat Morris
Coordinator

Save the Date Vacation Bible School

July 17th – 21st
9:00 a.m. – Noon
Apostle Presbyterian
Church (1509 S. 76th
St.)

Annual Brewer Game

The annual Mt. Hope Brewers game outing will be Saturday, July 15. Further details and sign-up will start in May. Look forward to seeing you there!

Mission Partner: Lutheran Social Services

LSS Remains Committed to Refugee Resettlement

The recent executive order to halt refugee admissions into the U.S. is impacting the work of LSS, which has operated a refugee resettlement program for more than 40 years.

"The order has effectively cut off our government funding for at least 120 days," said David Larson, LSS president and CEO. "However, we still have work to do and need financial support to help sustain our program so we can continue to fulfill our commitments to refugees who've recently come to Wisconsin."

LSS is currently providing intensive resettlement services to more than 140 refugees who arrived in the past three months. The work of LSS starts by welcoming thoroughly vetted refugees at the airport and helping them take their first steps into their new lives in America.

"When they arrive, we must have housing ready for them, equipped with beds and essential house-

hold items," said Larson. "We provide English classes and cultural orientation, get the children enrolled in school and the family connected with doctors and other community resources. Most importantly, we help them find employment so they can become self-sufficient and productive members of society."

LSS is a member of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, has been a resettlement agency since 1974, and is compelled and obligated to continue this important work.



"Since the executive order was signed on January 27, we've received an outpouring of support from people who want to volunteer and donate household and clothing items, and we appreciate them all. But, with no funding coming into our program for at least the next 120 days, our greatest need is financial," said Larson.

In addition to helping recently arrived refugees, LSS continues to serve as a resource - providing information, employment support and emergency assistance - to the more than 2,200 refugees the agency has resettled in the past five years. Since 1974, LSS has successfully resettled more than 10,000 refugees from 15 countries.

"We are actively seeking donations to help keep our program operational during the shutdown and ready to welcome new refugees when the ban is lifted."

To learn more or make a contribution, visit www.lsswis.org.



Mount Hope Lutheran Church
8633 West Becher Street, West Allis, WI 53227

How to Reach Us

Telephone: 414-541-9500
Fax: 414-541-9115



E-mail:
office@mounthopelutheranchurch.org

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
Mobile: 630-880-4935
Office: 414-541-9500 ext. 103
e-mail: brian@mounthopelutheranchurch.org

Donna Ihlenfeld
Administrative Assistant
414-541-9500 ext. 101
e-mail: donna@mounthopelutheranchurch.org

Carla Stensberg
Bookkeeper & Accounts Payable
414-541-9500 ext. 102
e-mail: carla@mounthopelutheranchurch.org

Mary Felkner
Accounts Receivable
414-541-9500 ext. 113
e-mail: mary@mounthopelutheranchurch.org

Colleen Hammerer

Sunday School Coordinator
414-541-9500 ext. 106
e-mail:
sundayschool@mounthopelutheranchurch.org

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



Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship**
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 5:30 pm Soup Supper
- 6:15pm Hope Choir
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Planning
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship**

Thursday, March 2

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

Friday, March 3

- 9:00 am Woman's Club of West Allis
- 6:00pm Mission Team: Event Setup

Saturday, March 4

- 9-12:00 pm Hope Closet
- 4:30-7:00 pm Mission Team Dinner & Silent Auction
- 5:30 pm Worship**

Sunday, March 5

Hephatha: Worship & Serve Lunch

- 8:30 am Worship**
- 8:45 am Instrumental Ensemble
- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:45 am Hope Choir
- 10:00 am Worship**
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:15 am Youth Committee Meeting

Monday, March 6

Tuesday, March 7

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

Wednesday, March 8

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 5:30 pm Soup Supper

- 6:15pm Hope Choir
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 7:00 pm Lenten Worship**

Thursday, March 9

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

Friday, March 10

- 6:30 pm Confirmation and Senior High Youth: Movie Night

Saturday, March 11

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

Sunday, March 12

Daylight savings time begins

- 8:30 am Worship**
- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:30 am Blood Pressure Check
- 9:45 am Hope Choir
- 10:00 am Worship**
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Blood Pressure Check
- 11:00 am Confirmation Class

Monday, March 13

Tuesday, March 14

- 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

Wednesday, March 15

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 11:00 am Health Cabinet
- 1:00 pm Book Group
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 5:30 pm Soup Supper
- 6:15pm Hope Choir
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 7:00 pm Lenten Worship**

Thursday, March 16

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

Friday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

- 8:00 pm Senior High Youth: Lock In

Saturday, March 18

- 9-12:00 pm Hope Closet
- 5:30 pm Worship**

Sunday, March 19

- 8:30 am Worship**

- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:45 am Hope Choir
- 10:00 am Worship**
- 11:15 am Mission Team Mtg.
- 6:00 pm Serenity Inn Fellowship Dinner

Monday, March 20

Spring begins

Tuesday, March 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, March 22

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 5:30 pm Soup Supper
- 6:15pm Hope Choir
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 7:00 pm Lenten Worship**

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

Saturday, March 25

- 9-12:00 pm Hope Closet
- 5:30 pm Worship**

Sunday, March 26

- 8:30 am Worship**
- 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
- 9:45 am Hope Choir
- 10:00 am Worship**
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Confirmation Youth: Bowling

Monday, March 27

Tuesday, March 28

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

Wednesday, March 29

- 9:00 am Quilter's Group
- 9:30 am Prayer Gathering
- 5:30 pm WISH Support Group
- 5:30 pm Soup Supper
- 6:15pm Hope Choir
- 6:30 pm Praise Band
- 7:00 pm Lenten Worship**

Thursday, March 30

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

Friday, March 31