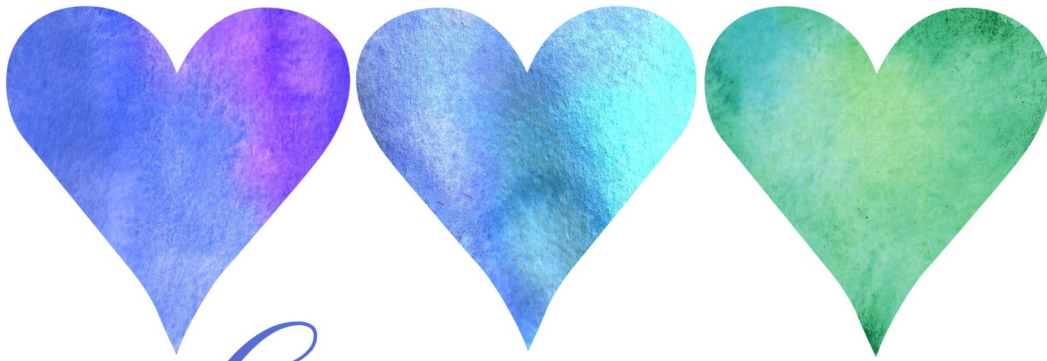


# MOUNT HOPE'S PEEK

FEBRUARY 2022

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1



“Love  
each other  
as I have  
loved you.”  
JOHN 15:12, NIV



<i>Annual Meeting</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	10
<i>Contact Us</i>	11
<i>Faith Education</i>	5
<i>Governance Board</i>	6
<i>Hope Ministries</i>	8
<i>Ministry Partners</i>	8
<i>Pastor's Corner</i>	2
<i>Youth Mission Team</i>	7
<i>Update on In-Person Worship</i>	4



## *Pastor's Corner*

### **This is Christ's Church. There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring, confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.



Peace and Greetings to you in the name of the Risen Lord,

If you've been tuning into our worship services lately, you will have noticed that I have been going a bit off the rails, so to speak. The past three weeks have been a sermon series on extra-canonical texts, books and scripture that fall outside of our traditional Bible yet have been used as scripture by early Jesus communities. Specifically, we have looked at the Gospel of Mary, the Gospel of Thomas, and the Acts of Paul and Thecla. Now if you want to know more about those or why I chose those, you can check out the sermons from previous weeks starting with January 9<sup>th</sup>. However, because of this little adventure, I did want to talk about one of my favorite pieces of scripture that got overlooked in the lectionary the other week.

From January 23<sup>rd</sup>, our second reading was 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:12-31a. It might sound potentially familiar to you. It's about the body of Christ and how we all have a place in it. It's an apt metaphor for different gifts we bring to ministry and life:

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

<sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are

many members, yet one body.

The message here is that we all have certain gifts and thus we are all of importance to the makeup of the body of Christ. We all have a place and something to give. Just as an eye cannot do what an ear does, nor do we have to have all the gifts for music ministry that might make us suited to help on altar guild. While we all might not have gifts of preaching scripture, we might have gifts of financial know-how to serve on church council. We might not have all the time that we would like to help ministry, but perhaps we can help contribute to ease the strain of the budget. Any number of these things could be true for you. The point is, we are not without our gifts to supply and help.

In my recent movie viewing, I watched *Encanto*, an animated Disney film available on

## Pastor's Corner

the streaming service Disney+. While it came out a few months ago, it's been receiving a lot of attention this past month. With good reason! In the movie, we follow Mirabel Madrigal, a teen living with her extended family in a magical house in Colombia. The house appeared to her grandmother in a time of great need and the house continues to bless them with not only shelter, but magical talents and gifts for all the children and grandchildren. Abuela Alma, the grandmother, insists that the family use their gifts for the betterment of the local town, in a way to give thanks for the blessing they've been given.

The family has such powers as super strength, making food that heals, creating plant life, and controlling the weather. Every blood relative of Alma has a gift, except for young Mirabel. Mirabel spends the majority of the

movie wondering why she was never given a power, and always feeling like an outsider in a family with magical abilities.

Without spoiling the film, the movie takes a good look at what our gifts and talents are, useful for family, community, and church settings. Some of the family members feel immense pressure that they aren't using their gift enough. Others find themselves in a rut being called upon to do the same thing over and over again without the chance to create something new. Others feel like they are constantly overlooked as a person and only see as their gift. Still others worry that if their gift grows weaker or fades, will people still love them when they are no longer able to do what they were known for? And of course, Mirabel's pondering about her place in the family when she doesn't have a supernatural gift

and how she constantly feels like an outsider at home and in the eyes of her Abuela.

There's much more I could say about *Encanto*, but I want you to experience it for yourself. There are many messages that ring true for our church community today. Just because your gifts aren't apparent, doesn't mean you don't have a gift. You don't have to constantly compare your gifts to the gifts of others. You are a full person, you are more than just your gifts. Even when you feel like you don't have gifts, sometimes a real gift is the gift of listening, trying, or working against the odds anyway. It takes many members to make the body of Christ. May we be blessed by the gifts of those in our lives and may we bless others with our own gifts, this day and always.

Peace,  
Pastor Stephen

### All events and gatherings are subject to change.

Many of them have digital backup plans, but we have to plan both for the best and the worst. Please be patient and gracious with our ministry teams as we work to navigate the best options for both the health and welfare of our congregation and community as well as providing chances to learn, grow, share, and stay connected even in the most isolating of times.

## Update on In-Person Worship

### Faith Education

#### Confirmation

*6th-8th grade youth  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday after  
church at 10:45  
a.m. via Zoom.  
We will not meet  
on February 20th  
because of the  
budget meeting.*

#### Generations of Hope

*Sunday School for  
ages 1-100  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of  
every month at  
10:45 a.m. We  
will not meet this  
month because of  
the annual meeting  
on February 27th.*

#### Pint-Sized Faith

*Adult Bible study  
and faith discussion  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues-  
day, via Zoom,  
at 7:00 p.m.*

#### Bible Study

*Adult Bible study  
Every Thursday  
at 1:00 p.m. via  
Zoom.*

Firstly, I want to thank everyone for the outpouring of support and understanding as we continue to remain virtual for a few more weeks. Perhaps it is in the English degree-holder in me or maybe being a Biblical scholar that I try to be intentional with how we approach language around this subject. Some folks are probably tired of me saying “the church isn’t closed”, but it’s true. We are the church and we happen to be a bit more distanced than we would like. Ministry is still going on. Our smaller groups are still meeting in our building. The Hope Ministries have adjusted what their ministry looks like during this spike of COVID-19 cases, but it has not stopped their outreach. Worship services are still happening. Ministry is still happening. Pastoral care is still available. It might not look like or be in a fashion that we want, but we are still the church, and we are open.

The other part of intentional language is that I want to remind folks that most of us don’t desire to

be virtual. I think many of us are burnt-out from this pandemic. We are tired of masking. We are sad to have virtual be our only option for a bit. None of us were too keen on limiting contact or adjusting our schedules in the ways we have. Yet, we have done these things and continue to do them for the safety of ourselves, our family and friends, and our communities. We make small changes in our lives to prevent potential spread. We do slow the spread and we do lessen the chance of the virus mutating. Heaven knows we never want to be known as a super-spreader or worse, the Mount Hope variant.

We pray for all health care professionals working on the front lines. We pray for people that have to turn patients away because all of the beds are full. We pray for the patients who fight with COVID-19, whether they did everything recommended or not. We pray for all families and friends affected by grief of losing a loved

one to COVID-19. We pray for those who find themselves unable to visit family and friends because of health restrictions. We pray for all healthcare workers experiencing burnout and finding it difficult to clock in each day. We pray for all essential employees who find themselves in situations they should never be, deciding whether a paycheck or their life is more valuable. We pray for all those who have had to become mediators to disgruntled and angry clients and customers. We pray for students of all ages who have had their learning disrupted in ways we would have never imagined two years ago.

There is a lot on our hearts and there is a lot that is sadly out of our control and power. However, where we do have control is when we are guided by the Holy Spirit to protect and love our neighbor. I recognize some folks might be frustrated and saddened when they see other things open, but Mount

*continued on page 5*



## *Update on In-Person Worship - continued*

*continued from page 4*

Hope still being solely virtual worship for another few weeks. It's heartbreaking for many of us, myself included. We do feel that we made the difficult but spirit-led choice. Sometimes being a Christian is difficult and this is one of those times.

Remember that we the church are not closed. Many of our connections that we have built are just a phone call or email away. Don't hesitate to reach out to each other. Share what is going on in

your day. Ask if you can pray together. Talk about the pastor's sermon last week. Share what has been difficult these past few weeks. If you find yourself thinking you don't have anyone to talk to, you can always reach out to me. I'm feeling quite isolated too and would love to hear from you.

It's not exactly Biblical, but it is timely. A friend of mine shared a quote that was graffitied on a NYC subway line: after the plague came the renaissance. A reminder

that after death there is a flourishing of life. There are brighter days ahead. We are the people of the resurrection. We believe in a God who triumphs over death. Let us live into that calling.

Peace,  
Pastor Stephen



## *COVID-19 Task Force*

The COVID-19 Task Force is committed to monitoring the status of COVID-19 in our community, and how it relates to going back to in-person worship services. Everyone on the task force would love to resume in-person Sunday services, but we are also responsible to make sure our devoted members can be safe while worshipping. We weighed the pros and cons of meeting in-person, and decided to continue virtual Sunday

services through February 13th. The task force will meet on February 9th and reevaluate the situation. We will continue to meet regularly until the COVID-19 risk lessens and we can worship together!

Due to the high number of hospitalized patients, there is a great need for blood in the Milwaukee area. Please consider calling the Versiti Blood Center at 877-BE A HERO (877-232-4376)

to donate the life-giving blood. I had a blood transfusion after my first back surgery, and shortly after the transfusion was completed, I felt so much better and my appetite had finally returned. Please consider taking the time to help someone get the blood they need, but cannot get anywhere else than a blood donor.

Diane Guenther-Weis  
COVID-19 Task Force  
Chairperson

## **Worship with Us**

**In-Person Worship** is paused through February 13th. The COVID-19 Task Force will meet again on February 9th to decide if a further extension on in-person gatherings is warranted.

## **Livestream Worship**

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Watch livestream or on demand on our YouTube channel (search Mount Hope Lutheran Church West Allis).

## Governance Board

The new year provides us an opportunity to look back as well as to look forward. It's hard to believe where we were at the beginning of 2021. Virtual coffee hour, pre-recorded services, and a newly formed Call Committee embarking on the process to call our next pastor. When we made our call we had three areas of emphasis. Here is the list and how Pastor Stephen and the congregation has addressed them so far:

### Youth Education:

- Confirmation - The confirmation class meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday after church
- Fresh look at Sunday School - Intergenerational Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday of the month
- Engage Youth in Ministry and Worship - Youth involved in the lighting of the advent wreath during the service

### Explore Partnership and potential consolidation with other West Allis Churches:

- Outdoor Service at Luther Memorial
- Indoor blessing of the pets with Luther

Memorial at Mount Hope

- Continued partnership with Holy Trinity and their support of the Hope Ministries

### Explore more ways to leverage digital experience to expand our outreach and flexibility for our members:

- Thursday bible study is a Zoom and in person
- Tuesday night bible study is Zoom
- Weekly advent devotionals available online
- Donations to upgrade the live streaming technology

One that was not listed was the need for a Reopening/COVID-19 Task Force. Thanks to all of its members who found ways for us to worship in person while minimizing the health risk to all of us.

Now is the time for us to look forward. I am excited about all the things listed above continuing. I will say your Governance Board is challenged to create a realistic budget for 2022. The pledges we

received to date are \$25,000 less than the pledges for 2021. Please pray for the Lord to help us discern the amount we may receive in addition to those pledges as we work on the ministries for 2022.

Finally, please consider how God may be calling for you to give of your time to support Mount Hope. We are looking for a new member of the Governance Team to fill the Vice President role. The time commitment is two one-hour meetings a month and some time outside of the meetings as needed. I want to thank Jeff Sikich for the time he has given the Governance Board the past three years.

Here's to a wonderful 2022 as we do God's work with our hands.

Lynda Taylor  
*President*

Jeff Sikich  
*Vice President*

Holly Werra  
*Secretary*

Eric Hertzfeldt  
*Interim Treasurer*

Glen Norton  
*Member at Large*



## ***Annual Meeting & Budget Meeting***

The budget meeting will be on Sunday, February 20th after morning worship and the annual meeting will be on Sunday, February 27th after morning worship. As of now, both of these meetings will be held in-person in the Sanctuary, all masking and distancing rules still apply. **If however, the**

**pause on in-person worship continues to February 20th and beyond, these meetings will be moved to exclusively on Zoom.**

This will not be a hybrid meeting, either it will be fully in-person or fully on Zoom. The Mount Hope COVID-19 Task Force will meet the evening of

February 9th to determine whether we will be in-person or virtual. After that decision you can expect an update. At that time, if we have decided to go virtual, that is when you will receive the Zoom link.



## ***Youth Mission Team: Mission Trip to West Virginia***

Mount Hope's Youth Mission Team is back in action and will be heading to Charleston, WV in July of 2022! We have 14 youth and 4 chaperones going from Mt. Hope!

We are so excited to bring this opportunity back to the youth of our congregation; and the youth are eager to serve those in need in West Virginia. As of 2021, West Virginia was ranked the 2nd poorest of all 50 states. During our week in Charleston, our youth will partner with YouthWorks by serving as volunteers with local understaffed social service organizations including a food pantry,

clothing distribution center, soup kitchen, and groups of children and the elderly in the community. We will bring the hope of Christ to those impacted both by poverty and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past we have been able to host some amazing fundraisers in our church to help keep the costs per-person down. Due to the pandemic, some of our fundraisers will have to change and some of them may not even take place. Therefore, we have created GoFundMe and PayPal donation pages for those who wish to

donate and help offset the cost of our trip.

PayPal:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=FZ6PZ35H23EYW](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=FZ6PZ35H23EYW)

GoFundMe:

<https://gofund.me/5e76f59a>

Please consider contributing to this life-altering opportunity for our youth and chaperones. If you prefer to donate by check, please mail to Mt. Hope (payable to Mt. Hope and note 'Mission Trip' in the memo line).

Thank you,  
Debbie Conklyn

### **Instrumental Ensemble is continuing to play at worship services.**

Instrumental Ensemble is open to youth and adults of all ages and all instruments so, if you have at least one-year of experience on a band or orchestra instrument, keyboard, guitar, or any other instrument, there is a place for you in Instrumental Ensemble.

Please join us as we continue to share instrumental music at worship services from February through May.

For more information, please contact Pat Kaiser 414-315-3788.

## ***Hope Ministries***

Although we have put a pause on having our families come into the Hope Closet in person for clothing, we continue to provide groceries as needed. Every week, we serve between 10 and 15 families, providing food via parking lot pickup or delivery. We provide groceries for families of 2, as well as families of 15. As you can imagine, it is sometimes a challenge to keep up our inventory. However, we have been blessed by the faithful support of so many. We recently received a huge donation of food from Holy Trinity—2 car loads!! How fortunate we are to have such a faithful ministry partner!

On Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual “Soup-er Bowl” collection. Volunteers will be in the parking lot from 10:00 a.m.-Noon to collect your donations of canned soups and other non-perishable food items. In addition, we are again collecting hygiene supplies such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, body wash, and bar soap. Of course, these donations may be brought in at any time. Cash donations are always welcome, and checks may be made out to “Hope Ministries.”

And finally, our volunteers are returning in

February to process clothing donations that have come in throughout January. In late January, we received a vanload of donations from the West Allis Rotary Club. They sponsored a collection of winter items – blankets and warm winter clothing, and we were the grateful recipients of a portion of their collection.

Community partnerships, dedicated volunteers, and your prayers and donations have continued to sustain this vital ministry.

Praise God!  
Donna Jonasen

## ***Ministry Partner: Serenity Inn***

Normally, Serenity Inn volunteers prepare a meal for 12 to 16 people. Meals need to be delivered ready to eat, since they have no stove or way of heating anything up. They do have a refrigerator to store leftovers. During the pandemic, all you need to do is drop off the meals a little before 6:00

PM on the scheduled date. They will come out and carry the food in. Before the pandemic, you would be invited to dine with them, but not now. The meal should be delivered in disposable containers to Serenity Inn, 2825 West Brown Street in Milwaukee. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fireside Room.

The open dates are all Sundays: March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18 and November 20. If you would like to volunteer to cook and deliver a meal, please sign up.

For more information call Dave Jonasen at 414-690-8372.



## Ministry Partner: Hephatha Lutheran Church

January 26, 2022

Dear Mission Partners,

Greetings of faith and hope and love form all of us at Hephatha.

As we go through this time after Epiphany, this time of "marching in the light of God," we express gratitude from Hephatha to you who serve with us in the Gospel and who stand with us in our ministry commitment to God and the community of 18th and Locust. May I please share with you two incredible gifts from God that you share in with us as you serve with us....DEANNA and EH'ZARIAH...

**+ DEANNA BRANCH:** Hephatha Leader and Coalition On Lead Emergency leader, parent of a child suffering with lead poisoning, back on her feet following near death illness herself, introduced Vice President Harris in Milwaukee this week and spoke the truth of her family's and the community's suffering

with lead poisoning, leading a call for change with her voice and life. You can find her at minute 15 on this video: <https://youtu.be/5NV3i85qYVY>

Here is Deanna on Monday, with VP Harris:



*Vice President Kamala Harris speaks with Deanna Branch, whose son was hospitalized twice for lead exposure, during an appearance on January 24, 2022.*

**+ EH'ZARIAH,** born in December, was given an emergency baptism at Children's Hospital on December 22nd (I had the honor of also baptizing her father, at her bedside), with her mother and two nurses as witnesses. She has gone from ventilator and sedation in ICU to life at home as a healthy baby. She continues to be treated for some medical conditions and she thrives when her life was

once thought to be over almost before it began. We thank God for these sisters in the faith, for the ministry we share, for you as our partners, and for the light of Christ, who is with us always.

God's peace to you,

Pastor Mary Martha



*Here she is today.*



### January Milestone Birthdays

*Celebrating 90+ years*

Beatrice Sakowski - 96

### February Milestone Birthdays

*Celebrating 90+ years*

Lucille Anderson - 92

### February Milestone Wedding Anniversaries

*Celebrating 50+ years*

John & Joanne Novak - 63rd

# February



## Tuesday, February 1

- 6:45 pm Milwaukee Festival City Chorus
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Wednesday, February 2

- 9:00 am Quilters Group
- 10:00 am Book Group
- 6:30 pm CA Group
- 7:00 pm Governance Board

## Thursday, February 3

- 11:00 am Hope Ministries Volunteers
- 1:00 pm Bible Study

## Friday, February 4

- 10:30 am Woman's Club of West Allis

## Saturday, February 5

- 10:00 am Hope Ministries: Drive-Thru Donation Drop-Off

## Sunday, February 6

- 8:30 am Instrumental Ensemble
- 8:30 am Praise Band
- 9:30 am Livestream Worship**
- 11:00 am LCC Church

## Monday, February 7

- 11:00 am Hope Ministry Volunteers
- 6:00 pm Girl Scouts
- 6:00 pm WISH Group

## Tuesday, February 8

- 6:45 pm Milwaukee Festival City Chorus
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. Pint-Sized Faith

## Wednesday, February 9

### *COVID-19 Task Force Meeting*

- 9:00 am Quilters Group
- 6:30 pm CA Group
- 7:00 pm LCC Church

## Thursday, February 10

- 11:00 am Hope Ministry Volunteers
- 1:00 pm Bible Study

## Friday, February 11

## Saturday, February 12

### *Greater Milwaukee Synod: Together in Mission (Hybrid Event)*

- 10:00 am Hope Ministries Volunteers

## Sunday, February 13

- 8:30 am Praise Band
- 9:30 am Livestream Worship**
- 9:30 am In-Person Worship (to be determined on Feb. 9th)**
- 10:45 am Confirmation
- 11:00 am LCC Church

## Monday, February 14

- 11:00 am Hope Ministries Volunteers
- 6:00 pm WISH Group

## Tuesday, February 15

- 6:45 pm Milwaukee Festival City Chorus
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Wednesday, February 16

- 9:00 am Quilters Group
- 6:30 pm CA Group
- 7:00 pm Governance Board

## Thursday, February 17

- 11:00 am Hope Ministries Volunteers
- 1:00 pm Bible Study

## Friday, February 18

## Saturday, February 19

- 10:00 am Hope Ministries Volunteers

## Sunday, February 20

- 8:30 am Praise Band
- 9:30 am Livestream Worship**
- 9:30 am In-Person Worship (to be determined on Feb. 9th)**
- 10:45 am Budget Meeting
- (either In-Person OR Zoom, to be determined on Feb. 9th)**
- 11:00 am LCC Church

## Monday, February 21

- 11:00 am Hope Ministries
- 6:00 pm Girl Scouts
- 6:00 pm WISH Group

## Tuesday, February 22

- 6:45 pm Milwaukee Festival City Chorus
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Wednesday, February 23

- 9:00 am Quilters Group
- 6:30 pm CA Group
- 7:00 pm LCC Church

## Thursday, February 24

- 11:00 am Hope Ministries Volunteers
- 1:00 pm Bible Study

## Friday, February 25

## Saturday, February 26

- 9:00 am Greater Milwaukee Synod Retreat
- 10:00 am Hope Ministries Volunteers

## Sunday, February 27

- 8:30 am Instrumental Ensemble
- 8:30 am Praise Band
- 9:30 am Livestream Worship**
- 9:30 am In-Person Worship (to be determined on Feb. 9th)**
- 10:45 am Annual Meeting
- (either In-Person OR Zoom, to be determined on Feb. 9th)**
- 11:00 am LCC Church

## Monday, February 28

- 11:00 am Hope Ministries
- 6:00 pm WISH Group

## Contact Us

**Mount Hope  
Lutheran Church**  
8633 W. Becher St.  
West Allis, WI 53227

**Phone:**  
414-541-9500

**E-mail:**  
office@mounthope  
lutheranchurch.org

**Website:**  
mounthopelutheran  
church.org

**Subscribe** to our  
e-mail news at  
mounthopelutheran  
church.org.

**Church Office**  
The church office is  
closed to visitors at this  
time. Staff are working  
both in the office and at  
home. Feel free to  
contact us by phone or  
e-mail. Voicemail and  
e-mail messages are  
checked throughout the  
day (Monday-Friday).

**Pastor**  
Rev. Stephen Boyhont  
Office: 414-541-9500  
x103  
Cell: 717-575-4891  
e-mail: pastorstephen@  
mounthopelutheran  
church.org

**Staff**  
**Larry Alber**  
Bookkeeper  
Accounts Payable  
414-541-9500 x102  
e-mail: larry@  
mounthopelutheran  
church.org

**Bonnie Jean Barczak**  
Hope Choir Director  
Handbell Choir  
Director

**Chris Conklyn**  
Custodian  
414-541-9500 x109  
e-mail: bewell.stayrad@  
gmail.com

**Mary Felkner**  
Accounts Receivable  
414-541-9500 x113  
e-mail: mary@  
mounthopelutheran  
church.org

**Donna Ihlenfeld**  
Administrative  
Assistant  
414-541-9500 x101  
e-mail: donna@  
mounthopelutheran  
church.org

**Donna Jonasen**  
Worship Leader  
414-690-8371  
e-mail: donnajonasen@  
gmail.com

**Pat Kaiser**  
Instrumental Ensemble  
Director

## Governance Board

Lynda Taylor  
*President*  
e-mail: lynda@mount  
hopelutheranchurch.org

Jeff Sikich  
*Vice-President*  
Holly Werra  
*Secretary*  
Eric Hertzfeldt  
*Interim Treasurer*  
Glen Norton  
*Member At-Large*

## COVID-19

### Task Force

Diane Guenther-Weis,  
Chairperson  
414-708-8242  
e-mail: winemaker  
diane@yahoo.com



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.