

Herald of Hope October 2020



HOPE
is alive!

Hope Lutheran Church, ELCA

305 10th St. S Walker, MN 56484

218-547-1850

All are Welcome!

www.hopelutheranchurch-walker.com

Hope Lutheran's Staff

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Music Coordinator	Jill Anderson	
Accompanist	Mike Kerrigan	
Custodian	Vic Fields	

Indoor Worship, Sunday, October 11th at 8:30

On Sunday, October 11th, we will be inviting a *limited* number of pre-registered worshipers into the sanctuary for Sunday worship at 8:30 a.m. Registration will open on October 5th, and simply requires a phone call or email to the church office. ALL our virtual, online, and radio worship options will continue for those who chose to remain at home.

Livestream Worship Every Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

You can view Hope's live Sunday worship at 8:30 a.m. by logging your computer, tablet or smart phone to leechlaketv.org, or tuning your antenna TV (not cable) to Channel 21.5. The 8:30 service is also broadcast live on KQKK 102 FM radio. You can also find an archive of Hope's services on YouTube or the church website.

OCT-DEC *Christ in Our Home and Portals of Prayer*
Daily Devotional booklets are available at the church. Let us know if you'd like copies mailed to you.

Thank you for your continued support of Hope Lutheran's ministry. Offerings may be mailed to PO Box 506, Walker MN 56484 or given electronically through our website.



We were so blessed with perfect weather for all four of our outdoor worship services this summer! What a joy to be able to worship in person with the Family of Hope. Thanks so much to Hope's House Band for their musical leadership and also to Duane Foss, for all of the un-connecting and re-connecting and cord wrangling to make the technological magic happen so our friends at home could join us! Pictured above is our Rally Sunday service on September 20th, with Youth of Hope Noah McWaters, Every Felton, Trevor Kuechle and Vada Yeats speaking about this summer's Vacation Bible School.

From Pastor Matt

Shifting Gears in September

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Full Disclosure... Both the declaration that heads this article, and the scripture below have been front and center for me, and for many of you as well. The cry for consistency reveals the exhaustion of living amidst our world today, when to plan ahead or rely on the rhythms of our past life have passed. "I'm tired..." has been a refrain I've heard from many, including myself, and it's hard to admit it as it also seems there is less on our work and home agendas today than last year.

Yes it is hard to admit, and frankly, sometimes it takes a breakdown or an utter failure of a moment to recognize just how difficult this past week has been... this past month has been... these past 6 months have been. Again, I've experienced this, just as many of you have shared. Transitions are hard. While life in this world is always influenced by a state of flux, we can usually see signs of the road ahead. The challenge now is the road ahead is obscured by fog, a forest of trees that grow right up to the edge, critters jumping out in front of us making us swerve, potholes, and fading highway lines. What is coming next? It is easy to get disoriented today, and we still have the normal life stuff (health issues, relationship issues, etc.) to add to a nation wrestling with COVID-19, a divisive political season, and racism and civil rights issues that have surfaced.

I was reminded yesterday (9/27/20) in prayer - when I kind of felt like crawling into a quiet corner of this world to sit in silence, to breathe, to escape the world for a moment, that our God is a faithful God, who doesn't abandon us in times like these. I was reminded that this is hard, but none of us face this alone. I was reminded we are a part of a community that has been tested before, and the relationships that connect us are resilient. I was reminded that this promise from God, demonstrates the most resilient connection of all.



Worship & Programming this Fall

As much as I'd like to say our ability to worship in person will continue and will grow consistently until we are all back together in the sanctuary at both 8:30 & 10:30, with coffee hour in between, we all know that's not reality. We are excited to invite a limited number of worshippers for in-person worship starting October 11, though guidelines will include no singing, no speaking liturgical responses, and more. **THIS DOES NOT**

MEAN YOU HAVE TO WORSHIP IN PERSON, and I invite you to make the decision that you discern is best for you. There will be some Sundays when special events like our confirmation student's Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, October 25 will allow only those directly involved in worship to be in attendance, and we rejoice that we can celebrate with them in this way!

Please know that our policies and procedure inside the building for worship, ministry, and more will continue to be a moving target. Hope's leadership continues to listen deeply to the congregation, to the information available to us from the CDC and Public Health Officials, and more to make informed decisions for the sake of the people of Hope and our neighbors.

Supporting Mission & Ministry

A few weeks ago, you received an invitation to share your planned financial support of our 2021 Mission Plan. You are encouraged first, to prayerfully consider with your household at what level you plan to support the life-changing work God calls us to. Then, you are encouraged to return your 2021 Estimate of Giving Card to Hope. IF you have not received this invitation or need a new one, please contact the church office and we'll be sure to get one to you. Thanks for your commitment and personal investment in our community of faith!

Pastor Matt

MINISTERIAL ACTS

Wednesday, September 23

*Memorial Service for
Marlene Johnson*

Saturday, September 27

*Memorial Service for
Matthew Ammerman*



Communion in the time of Co-Vid

In these extraordinary times we have learned new meanings for the word “community”. Meetings of every sort, Sunday worship, and even our family gatherings, no longer necessarily mean people physically gathered in the same room at the same

time. As we begin in-person worship, limits on the number that can gather safely in the sanctuary, mean that on any given Sunday, some will gather in the sanctuary while most will still participate from home.

A central element of worship has, from the very beginning, been the celebration of Holy Communion. Holy Communion is, and has been, celebrated in many different forms over the centuries: wine or grape juice, fresh baked bread or unleavened wafer, once a year, month, or weekly, continuous or at the rail, intinction or not, to name a few of the differences. For Lutherans, the core belief that gives Holy Communion its power and holiness is that Jesus Christ himself is in the elements. In this meal, “Jesus offers himself to us, comes into our presence in a powerful and holy way, and asks us to eat and drink the bread and wine that bring his body and blood really and truly into us.” (*by heart, Conversations with Martin Luther’s Small Catechism*)

As we move to in-person worship, Holy Communion will again be a central part of our worship service in much the same form as it has been in our outdoor worship services with the exceptions that spoken responses, out loud prayers, and congregational responses will be actively discouraged, along with singing, etc. in order to observe current best safety practices. We will continue to use the pre-packaged communion kits that we have been using for the past several months.

For those not yet ready to move to larger in-person gatherings and who will continue to worship at home “virtually”, we have the following suggestions: We encourage you to set aside wine or grape juice and bread for participation in home communion in fellowship with those communing in the sanctuary at our 8:30 am service. If you have children at home, you might consider baking bread as a family, as a way of marking this most special of meals. You may also stop by the church sometime during the week and receive home communion kits for use on Sunday. The resource, *Holy Home Communion* will also be available for those who request it.

We realize this is a departure from our pre-COVID practices, but we also realize that we are living in extraordinary times. Until we are free to gather for worship as we once did, the church continues to explore new ways of connecting while preserving the core practices of our worshipping life together. For those who feel the call to abstain from the Lord’s Supper until they

can return in person to the Lord’s Table, this is a worthy and legitimate practice as well. Through all of this the most important thing to remember is, the Lord’s Supper is gospel (good news) not law. As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pastor Matt or Pastor Dave. We are always glad to hear from you.

God’s blessings to you in this time of trial,
Pastor Matt, Pastor Dave

Installation of Northeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA Bishop *Pastor Amy Odgren*

**Saturday, October 17th at 2:00 p.m.
at Hope Lutheran Church, Walker**

Hope Lutheran is so honored to be the site of the installation of our synod’s new bishop, Pastor Amy Odgren. She is a member of Hope Lutheran and the daughter of Jim Dunlevy. Due to CoVid restrictions, in-person attendance is closed, however you can watch the service live at 2:00 on October 17th at lechlaketv.org. It will also be recorded and can be viewed at a later time.



Hope Lutheran’s deck was a great asset to have as an outdoor gathering space for many groups this past summer. Thanks to the Board of Property for maintenance work done on our deck (Duane Foss and Monte Lienau pictured above).

**WELCOME to our new
custodian, Vic Fields!**

Youth of Hope

WHIRL Sunday School 2020

Sunday School is on Zoom at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. Join us as we dig into a new Bible story every week and watch a fun video!



Third Grade Bible Milestone

3rd graders and families are invited to come to Hope on **Monday October 12th from 6:30-7:30pm** to dig a little bit into the Bible. At this family Milestone event, our youth will discover the Bible as the story of God and God's people, learn what the big and small numbers mean, and even engage this living book through a couple fun activities.

Children's Christmas Program 2020

Sunday December 20th

The Christmas Story told by the kids of Hope! Families will be asked to sign up for a time slot to bring the kids into the church in November. We will be interviewing the kids on their take on the Christmas story & editing all of the videos together for a fun pre-recorded Christmas program!

6-9 Youth Group

First Sunday of the month on Zoom from 6-7pm! Join us to catch up & play some fun games.

10-12 Grade Youth Group

Kick off Wednesday October 7th on Zoom from 8:15-9pm. We will talk about what youth group will look like through December & come up with a schedule & time together.

National Youth Gathering '22 Minneapolis

After much prayer & consideration, the National Youth Gathering planning team has decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay tuned for Hope Lutheran's official travel & trip dates, but the dates of the actual gathering in Minneapolis will take place July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis.



May Creek Lodge invites families for a
Halloween Parade of Costumes
on Saturday, October 31st

Drive in anytime from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and show your costumes and wave to the residents!

Confirmation 2020-2021

Confirmation classes for all 6th-9th graders will begin on Wednesday's in October. Every other week youth will either have an at home piece to complete or will be in person at church.

Wednesdays	Time
September 30	Parents & Student Zoom Mtg 6:30pm
October 7	6:30-7:45pm, Group A
October 14	No Confirmation- Fall Break
October 21	6:30-7:45pm, Group B
October 28	6:30-7:45pm, Group A
November 04	6:30-7:45pm, Group B
November 11	6:30-7:45pm, Group A
November 18	6:30-7:45pm, Group B
November 25	No Confirmation-Thanksgiving
December 2	6:30-7:45pm, Group A Advent
December 9	6:30-7:45pm, Group B Advent
December 16	6:30-7:45pm, ALL Zoom Advent
December 23	No Confirmation-Christmas Break
December 30	No Confirmation-New Years Break

Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday October 25th, 8:30am

Congratulations to the Youth of Hope who will be confirmed on Sunday, October 25th...

✂ Gwendolyn DeVries

✂ Ella Dykema

✂ Devin Johnson

✂ Karalyn Oberfell

✂ Eli Pfeiffer

✂ Mackenzie Raddatz

Important Dates for 10th Graders:

Month of October: Youth Interviews with Michelle & Pastor Matt

October 24th 7-8pm: Rehearsal (Youth & 1 Parent)

October 25th 8:30am: Affirmation of Baptism



For the health & safety of you and others, each family will be limited to who attends with your child. As we are all aware of how quickly things can change amidst this pandemic, we are going to wait to finalize specifics on who can attend until October. The service will be streamed live for those who cannot attend in person. And of course, will later be uploaded to YouTube.



**TAG
YOU'RE
IT!**
SUMMER 2020
#PassTheHope
More pictures in
Sept Newsletter!



Women of Hope

"Fall Into Christmas"

With the cancellation of this year's Christmas in July (the major fundraiser for the Women of Hope each year), our busy hands just wouldn't stay still and we created an abundance of wonderful handmade items ready to sell. Thanks to the Hope Crafters, Card Makers and other volunteers who arranged a great "Fall into Christmas"

outdoor sale. The weather was perfect and it was so good to see people we have missed! The event raised over \$3,000 for the Women of Hope.



Notes from the Co-Chairs

This morning I stopped out front of our house to take some pictures of the trees. This time of year is so beautiful but it lasts such a short time. I have to enjoy it as much as possible.

As cooler weather approaches, many of us are looking for activities. The card makers meet on Tuesday mornings and the quilters continue to meet on Thursday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. If you prefer to work at home, there are things you can do to still participate. Many quilters cut fabric squares or lay out quilt tops. Crafters work on projects at home as well. Contact Renay Berry for crafters (218-547-3615) or Ardyce Pederson for quilters (218-547-2576) for more information.

If you have attended the Northeast Synod Assembly in the past, you know that one of the events is a silent auction of quilts and other items from congregations within our synod. This year the assembly was virtual, so some talented people organized a virtual quilt auction which raised over \$5,600 for World Hunger. Hope Quilters sent a quilt that was purchased by a pastor from Duluth. Thank you Hope Quilters!

At this time circles are not meeting as usual, but some are connecting via Zoom and others have met in driveways. You can't stop women with a purpose. We thank Pastor Dave for his notes on the Gather Bible study. If you are not involved in a circle, give us a call. New members are always welcome.

The board of Women of Hope will meet October 7 at 10:00 a.m. If you have information to share, let us know. Get outside and enjoy the first days of fall. Stay healthy!

Pat Paulsen and Ardyce Pederson,
Women of Hope Co-chairs

Christmas Food Boxes

Hope's Christmas Food Box ministry is more important this year than ever before, as we are being told that the needs will be greater and the lists longer. We will be assembling Food Boxes for needy families in our community sometime in early December. We are planning how to safely keep this ministry in COVID-19 times.

Please consider helping with this ministry with both your time and financial support. Gifts can be made payable to Hope Lutheran, marked "Food Boxes".

Thank you all for your support!

A BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN TYING FLEECE BLANKETS for our Christmas Food Boxes. We received a huge order of kits about a month ago, and just can't believe they have all been picked up and most returned! We will be doing a count and there will be a final order placed for the remaining blankets needed. We'll let you know when there are more to be tied.

October Women's Gather Bible Study

Notes from Pastor Dave

HOLY TIME

The holy "now"-recognizing and responding to God's kairos time

We "spend" time, "waste" time, "kill" time, put our kids, or ourselves in "time out", and sometimes die "before our time". Our human bodies live within the confines of time, our days marked by hours and minutes, our lives measured in the number of lunar orbits we have seen. These past few months have given time new meanings. Our future is inextricably bound up in the hope for a vaccine. "When the vaccine comes, things will be as they were before" we tell ourselves, as our lives pause to await its coming.

This month's study helps us to look at time a bit differently. *Kairos* is time not measured by clocks or calendars. *Kairos* invites us to pause and notice; our surroundings, others, and yes, ourselves. The readings in the opening segment, "Signs of the Times" invite us to consider question 2; what do we see around us that causes us despair? Gives us hope?

Question 3 asks us to look beyond the most blaring headlines and ask, "Where do you see the good news of Jesus being fulfilled in the world today?" We might also pray for those places in the world most in need of the good news of Jesus and ask ourselves, "How can we be 'good news' for others in times such as these?" On page 25 the hard truth that grace is only grace when it is for everyone, forces us to look at how we extend or deny grace to others, individually, and most especially, as a community.

Page 26, particularly question 6, invite us to reflect on how we judge the actions of others. Do we look for the most charitable explanation, or judge others by how well they fulfill, or fail to fulfill our expectations and agendas?

I particularly was drawn to question 7 on page 28. When I was flirting with seminary, an excuse I retreated to was, "I'm too old". After all, seminary was at least a four year commitment, and in my case with work and life, five years. When I said, "by the time I finish, I'll be fifty-five or older." A sage asked me, "How old will you be in five years if you don't go to seminary?" To paraphrase Paul Harvey, "You know the rest of the story."

Make the most of the present, perhaps quieter, COVID moments, for life with all its demands, expectations, and distractions will return soon enough. But for now, "See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!"

Blessings on your study.

Pastor Dave

If you don't have a copy of the study, we'll send one to you! Call 547-1850 or email hope-

News of Hope

Hope Lutheran Church gives thanks for recent gifts received...

In memory of **Sharon Anderson**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Bill & Gloria Niswonger

In memory of **Pam Worth**, a gift to the *General Fund* from Bill & Gloria Niswonger, and a gift to the *Worship & Music Fund* from Roger & Kay Strandlie

In honor of **Rev. Paul Ullring**, a gift to the *Food Box Fund* from Brent & Lisa Johnson

The Walker Area Food Shelf is looking for volunteers to help serve our neighbors with food insecurities.

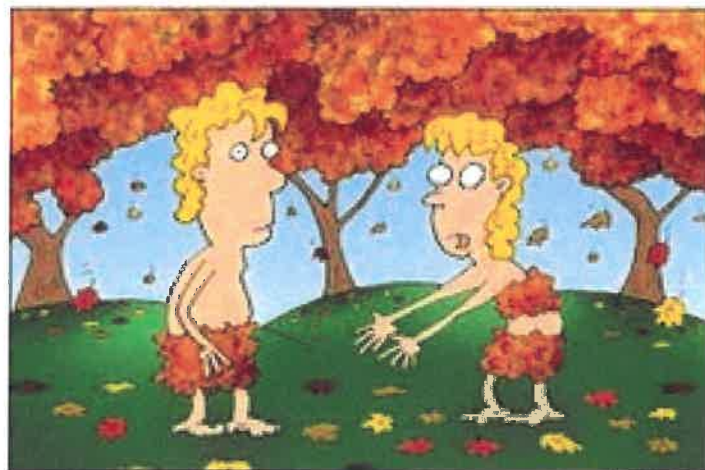
If you, or someone you know, are a healthy young adult, and able to lift 50+ lbs, please consider spending a few hours with us every Tuesday.



While working in a safe environment that includes masks, gloves, and social distancing, you can help keep our community strong.

One family at a time.

218.547.1713 or WalkerFoodShelf@gmail.com



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

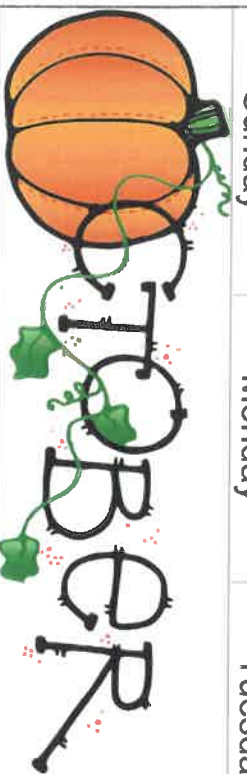
Shopping Amazon?

If you are placing orders online through Amazon, please log onto [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) first. This allows you to choose a charity to receive a donation from Amazon based on the amount of your purchase. Hope Lutheran is one of the charities you can choose from.

amazonsmile



You shop. Amazon gives.



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 am Quilters 11:30 Women's AA	2	3
4 8:30 Virtual Worship 9:30 Zoom Sunday School 6:00 pm 6th-9th Zoom YG	5 9:30 AA 5:30 pm Board of Property	6 9:00 Card Makers	7 10:00 Women of Hope Board Mtg 6:30 Confirmation Class A 8:15 pm 10th-12th Grade Zoom YG	8 8:00 am Quilters 11:00 Installation walk-thru 11:30 Women's AA 5:00 pm Girl Scouts	9	10
11 8:30 Communion Worship <i>In-person & Virtual</i> 9:30 Zoom Sunday School	12 9:30 AA 6:30 pm - 3rd grade Bible class	13 9:00 Card Makers	14 No Confirmation	15 8:00 Quilters 11:30 Women's AA	16	17 2:00 pm Installation of NE MN Synod Bishop Amy Odgren
18 8:30 Virtual Worship No Sunday School	19 9:30 AA	20 9:00 Card Makers 6:00 Executive Council	21 6:30 Confirmation Class B	22 8:00 Quilters 11:30 Women's AA	23	24 7:00 pm Confirmation Practice
25 8:30 Virtual Worship w/Service of Confirmation 9:30 Zoom Sunday School	26 9:30 AA	27 9:00 Card Makers	28 6:30 Confirmation Class A	29 8:00 Quilters 11:30 Women's AA	30 8:00-4:00 Headstart Training	31



*Go to the street corners and
invite anyone you find!*

Matthew 22:9



HOPE'S MISSION

Welcome... All People

Enrich... One another's lives

Send... Believers forth to serve

...As our way of proclaiming the gospel!