



Hope Lutheran Church

April 2021—A Year Abounding In Hope

April 2021

www.hopechurchec.com

Update on Worship – Please read!

Dear Friends,

As more and more people receive COVID-19 vaccinations, we will slowly return to a more normal way of life as a congregation. Here are some key updates of what you can expect in the near future:

Gathered Worship Returns

Our plan is to open up for gathered worship starting on May 16th. As we begin, worshipers will need to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

May 16 is the Sunday following Mother's Day. Since Mother's Day usually draws a very large crowd, we would overwhelm our ability to safely accommodate the worshipping community. That's why the decision was made to return after Mother's Day.

Streaming Worship

We will continue to stream our worship services over Facebook even as we return to gathered worship. It's surprising how many people have viewed our worship – far more than our average in-person worship attendance. We could not have anticipated what a tremendous evangelical tool electronic worship has been. Hope is able to spread its mission of proclaiming the good news in a wonderful new way.



Drive Up Communion

For the Sundays between Easter and May 16th, Pastor Mary and Les will once again provide drive up communion from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Sundays, weather permitting. We will continue to celebrate communion via our streamed Sunday services, too.

Peace and all good to you, my friends!

Pastor Mary



Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 1 – On this day we remember Christ’s command (mandate, the root of Maundy) to love one another has he has loved us. We will worship at 6:30 p.m. on Facebook. Have some bread and wine/grape juice ready to celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

Good Friday, April 2 – The eight ELCA congregations in Eau Claire are collaborating on a Good Friday service on the Seven Last Words of Christ. The service will premiere on our Facebook page at 1:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4 –

9:00 a.m. – Our service will stream on Facebook as we do every Sunday.

10:30 a.m. – Weather permitting, we will hold a parking lot service. When you arrive, you can tune your car radio to the appointed FM frequency to listen in your car. You’ll receive a bulletin for the service and also pre-packaged communion wafer and grape juice for the celebration of communion.

Return Lenten Offering Boxes

If you used a coin offering box during Lent, you may return that to the church at any time. This year’s Lenten coin offering is for the Eau Claire Area School District’s homeless program. The school district serves several hundred homeless children and youth each year. This program strives to help them overcome the challenges to access education presented by homelessness.

Like last year, all of the boxes containing loose change will be taken to the bank for counting. Boxes containing a check will be recorded on giving statements.



Hope's Happenings

New Emails for Office Staff

The Hope staff will begin to use a new and unified email address system beginning on May 1. Currently, all email addresses for our staff are varied, from Gmail to Hotmail. All of the new email addresses will use the same format and have the same ending: "first name @hopechurchec.com." These new emails will run through our server, providing an added level of security. Rachel's Place will continue to run under their current emails.

Here is the list of the new addresses:

Alice Bates alice@hopechurchec.com
Jody Christian jody@hopechurchec.com
Pastor Mary mary@hopechurchec.com
Ann Miloszewicz ann@hopechurchec.com
Les Munnik les@hopechurchec.com
Jim Newman jim@hopechurchec.com
Gary Polden gary@hopechurchec.com
NEW: Office office@hopechurchec.com



The staff will check their old emails sites regularly to look for messages sent to these former addresses during the transitional period.

Ways to Give

Our congregation offers a variety of means by which you may make an offering. Besides bringing your offering in person or mailing it, Hope has several ways you can give electronically:

Through Our Website – Hope's website address is www.hopechurchec.com. Once there, hover over the "About Us" page. The drop-down menu will include "Give." Click on that. Then click on the icon "Fast and Easy Giving." That will take you to our Subsplash site.

Hope Phone App – Hope has a free phone app which will give you access to Subsplash where you can access information. From here you can click on the "Give" tab.

Text Your Gift – Text the message "give2hope" to the phone number 206-859-9409. Follow the steps to set up an account and you're on your way.

Simple Giving – You can set up an automatic, pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. Forms are available in the church office and also on the church website. If you're looking on the App Store for our phone app, the icon looks like this:



Hope's Happenings

Women's Book Club



The Women's Book Club reading list continues! Read along with us and join us to chat - all are welcome!

Here is our upcoming reading list:

April 2021 - *The Stationery Shop* by Marian Kamali

May 2021 - *Big Lies in a Small Town* by Diane Chamberlain

June 2021 - *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah

July 2021 - *The Orphan Collector* by Ellen Marie Wiseman

We will plan to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month (April 19th) at 6:30 pm by a Zoom conference meeting. Anyone that would like to join our meetings virtually, please email Bridgit Mazuk at bmazuk@gmail.com to obtain the login information.

Volunteers Needed

As we look forward to having church services in person in the future, we are searching for volunteers.

VOLUNTEER



If you would be interested in running the camera or sound board on Sunday mornings on a rotating basis, ushering or greeting in person at Sunday services, preparing communion, assisting minister, scripture reader, choir, bell choir, playing an instrument, praise team, or any other volunteer position, please let the office know. If you already signed up on the 2021-2022 Time and Abilities sheet, you will automatically be on the list.

Thank you for considering volunteering at Hope as we look forward to gathering again in person.

SHP Update



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

We are back in business!! After our team meeting in March we are ready to resume bed deliveries to the Eau Claire area. We will have three delivery teams that have been fully vaccinated that will start deliveries middle of March. We have over 40 families on our waiting list and beds that are built so we are ready to go!!

The next big bed build will July 17th. The build will be in conjunction with Good Shepherd and Hope Lutheran. Details on the build will come out latter as we will need plenty of help. This will be a 40 bed build!!!

Some Groups are Meeting Again

Some of our groups are starting to meet in person again. You have the opportunity to join in person groups as they get back together safely.

Quilters: Meet every Tuesday morning at 9:00am. They meet downstairs in the big hall and would love to have you join them. NO experience necessary! Bring a mask.

Monday Morning Coffee: Meet Monday mornings at 8:30am. Please bring your own coffee and masks are needed.

If your group is ready to meet in person, please call the church office so we can help you get a time and place to meet.



Heeey the next big ICE event will be Wednesday April 14th. This is the night we will get to try out the new 9 square game. The fun will start at 6:30 right after confirmation and we will be finished at 7:15; Pizza will be provided to nourish us during the intense 9 square matches!!

Year End Confirmation Party

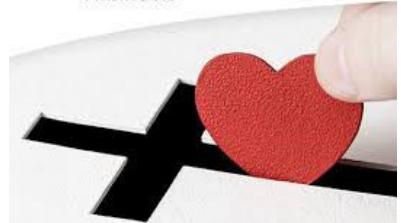
The big year end confirmation party will be held Wednesday April 21st.

The party will start at 5:15 the usual start for confirmation and will end at 6:15.

It will be an hour filled with games of Ga-Ga pit, 9-Square and carpet ball!! Tacos will be a source of refreshments for the party night.

Are you a Thrivent Member?

If so, consider applying for a Thrivent Action Team. All Thrivent members are eligible and it helps support the community. An Action Team is a \$250.00 card to give to your project. Thrivent loves seeing their clients support an organization or a cause they are passionate about! Projects at Hope Lutheran Church that Thrivent Action Team Dollars have contributed for include VBS, Rally Sunday, ASP pizza, scholarships, spaghetti dinners, and helping our Ghana Africa friends - just to name a few.



You can find more information on line or by contacting your Thrivent Representative. The on line application is easy and there are several people in the church office that can help. Please consider doing this and supporting a cause you are passionate about.



\$500 College Scholarship

This year our new Youth Enrichment Fund will be offering a \$500 scholarship to any senior from Hope Lutheran church that plans on continuing their post high school education.

This scholarship will be awarded on community service and community involvement. Letters and applications to all Hope Lutheran seniors were sent out by snail mail and need to be returned by April 21.

Luther Park and Vacation Bible School

Summer Plans! Make them now! Summer is an excellent time to have your kids go to Luther Park. Hope has picked the week of July 11-16 as our week. You are welcome to go any week in the summer, but this week Pastor Mary and Les will be visiting camp with you. Please visit Lutherpark.org to see what is available, prices and times. If you do sign up to go, please let Ann know when you will be there, and what camp you signed up for.

There will be 2 opportunities for fund raising for camperships.

Sunday, March 28th – To Go Potato Pancake Meal

Wednesday, May 12th – To Go Spaghetti Dinner

Camperships will be available for anyone going to camp. Amounts will be determined by the length of your camp week and price of your camp.



Wednesday, April 21 @ 6:30pm —Join us for an informational meeting about Luther Park. Get answers to all your questions. Pastor Mary, Ann and Les will be available to help you with anything Luther Park!

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held July 26-29th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Luther Park councilors will be here to lead. Hope will be partnering with Spirit Lutheran and Good Shepherd for a week of FUN! Registrations are available NOW and have been sent out by e mail. Please let us know if you need one and we can mail it to you. We would love if you could sign up as soon as possible. **This year more than ever it is important to know our numbers for the week.**

Cost - \$5.00/child with a \$20.00 cap/family

Ages: K – 6th 9:00am – 2:00pm

Pre School – 9:00am – 11:00am



Crosses We Don't Choose¹

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene² is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

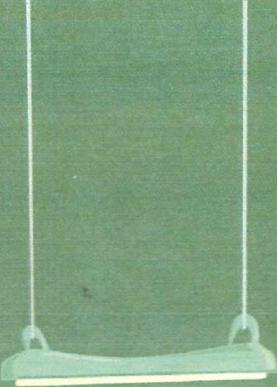
Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas

² Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

Spring Work Day at Luther Park

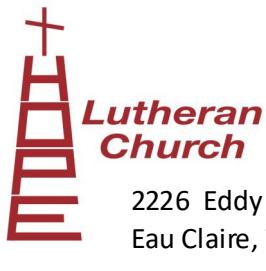
Saturday, April 24th
8:30am to 4:30pm



Help prepare Luther Park Bible Camp for the upcoming season!

Sign up at: lutherpark.org/spring-work-day





2226 Eddy Lane
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Non Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Eau Claire, WI
Permit No. 334

Current Occupant or

Phone
715.832.1414

Website
www.hopechurhchec.com

E-mail
hopedurhchec@outlook.com

Fax
715.832.3922

Address
2226 Eddy Lane
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Office Hours
Mon—Thur: 8:30 am–3:00pm
Fri: 8:30 am–12:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Staff

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Gary Polden	Music Director	2104	hopenmusic.gary@outlook.com
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Jim Newman	Director of Praise & Worship	2014	jamesnewman1955@gmail.com
Leanne O'Bryan	Dir. of Rachel's Place	2200	rachelsplaceelc@gmail.com
Scott Olson	Custodian	2107	
Brian Petersen	Buildings and Grounds		
Mark Larson	Church President		mlarson@market-johnson.com

Hope Lutheran is a handicapped accessible congregation providing barrier-free and elevator access, marked parking spaces, large-print materials and accessible restrooms



Download the Hope Church App on the
Apple "App Store" or Android "Google Play" platforms!