



# Hope Lutheran Church

## 2020-Vision In Mission

September 2020

[www.hopechurchec.com](http://www.hopechurchec.com)

### Returning to Gathered Worship

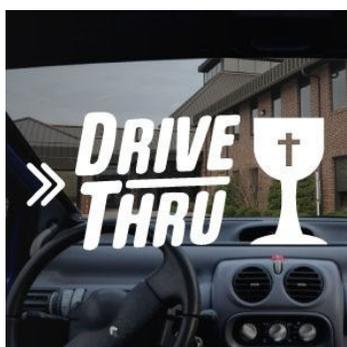
Our task force for returning to gathered worship has developed a plan for keeping worshipers safe in our space. We recently held a wedding which implemented our protocol, and all worked according to plan. We've roped off every other pew and have determined how many people each pew can accommodate. Everyone aged 5 and older needs to wear a mask, unless they have a medical condition which precludes that.



Our plan is to open for gathered worship in the middle of October. But in order for that to happen, we will need volunteers on Sunday mornings.

- Greeters will meet people as they arrive to make sure people are wearing a mask and to sign in at the table where they share who is in their party and their contact info.
- Ushers will help people find a seat once they enter the sanctuary. They'll also dismiss people at the end of service, from the back pew to the front pew.

If you can volunteer in either of these ways, please call the church office. In addition, we're also looking for people who might like to make handmade masks. If you make masks and would like to donate some to Hope, you can drop them off in the church office. These will be made available (along with paper masks) for people who come to church without a mask.



### Drive Up Communion

Weather permitting, you can swing by the front of the church on Sundays between 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. to receive drive up communion. Pastor Mary and Les Munnik will meet you by the front entrance. They'll be wearing masks. Pastor Mary will sanitize her hands between each car contact. Grape juice is used in place of wine. Gluten free wafers are also available. For our four-footed friends, doggy treats are served! Please enter on Eddy Lane, drive up to the front entrance and then exit on Starr Avenue. There will be no drive-up Communion on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020.

Dear Friends,

In August I led a book study on "Not Ashamed of My Brain" by Nate Stewart. Nate shares his experience with addiction and mental illness and addresses ways that the church can be a caring community for people facing mental illnesses. It's a very approachable and readable book and I recommend it for anyone looking for a way to learn more about this subject.

One eye opening statistic in the book was when Nate stated that in any year, one in five adults will have some kind of an experience with mental illness. Unlike physical ailments, things afflicting our brains can't be outwardly seen. That can lead to misunderstandings of the challenges they face.



As I read Nate's book, one thing he stressed was how important it is that people with behavioral health challenges not become isolated. That got me to thinking about our current situation with COVID-19. With social distancing and spending more time at home, we've become much more isolated.

Among the elderly who live alone or those who have been laid off from their jobs or working at home, the opportunity to interact with others had heightened loneliness and depression. I encourage us all to be mindful of the people we know who might be experiencing increased isolation. Can you give them a phone call or send them a card?

In these COVID times, we need to stick together and take care of one another. That's certainly something we're called to as imitators of Christ.

Peace be with you, friends!

Pastor Mary

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### **Pop-Up Food Pantry at Hope**

Hope will sponsor a "Pop-Up" food pantry for Feed My People Food Bank on Monday, September 21 at 2:30-3:30 p.m. Here's how the drive-up pantry works:

- FMPFB will bring pallets of various food items (including a variety of frozen meat, fresh produce, non-perishable food items). These will be placed in a row on our parking lot
- Drive-thru lines will be formed on either side of the row of pallets.
- Guests will drive through the line with their trunks open and the volunteers will place food in their vehicles.

We will need about 14 volunteers to help with the food distribution. Please call the church office to let us know if you can help

# God's work. Our hands.

The Lutheran congregations in Eau Claire are still planning a God's Work Our Hands event this year, but it will go a little differently with the pandemic measures in place. Mark Sunday, September 27th on your calendar for our community service event. This year's event will include just the service events – no gathered worship or communal lunch.

To keep things COVID-simple, each congregation is coordinating their own events. Our project is the one exception: a Sleep In Heavenly Peace bed build. With the number of people needed and the broad interest from other churches, we'll extend the invitation beyond just our Hope members to people from other congregations as well.

Consider if you'd like to help with one of the three GWOH opportunities below:

**SHP Bed Build** – If you'd like to help, call the church office to get on the volunteer list. The build will be held at Hope.

Saturday, Sept. 26 – Sanding Day – 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 27 – Assembly Day – 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

In addition, you can also donate new twin sheets, pillows, blankets and comforters.

**Home Project for Sewers** – Lutheran World Relief has made a challenge to collect 75,000 face masks for global distribution. They are accepting masks of any design, but if you're looking for a design, they have a simple pattern that you can pick up in the church office or call the office and we can send it to you. You may also click the link below and print the pattern at home. Please drop off any masks you'd like to donate for the project no later than Sept. 18th. [click here for mask pattern](#)

**Virtual Learning Event** – Each year, our GWOH event includes an educational event. This year's presenter is our own Lidix Montoya! Lidix will share details about her involvement in our synod's ministry to the Latinx



The regular Monday morning coffee group is meeting outside at a socially safe distance! If you're looking for some friendly conversation, bring your lawn chair, mug of coffee/tea and a face mask on Mondays at 8:30 a.m. The group will meet in the shade on the northeast end of the parking lot. If Monday is rainy, the group will meet on Tuesday morning instead. If Tuesday is rainy, well, then you'll have to wait for the following Monday!

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## Hope's Happenings

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### Stewardship Emphasis: "Faithful, Hopeful, Loving"

The theme for our fall stewardship emphasis is "Faithful, Hopeful, Loving." We're going through uncertain times, but there are some biblical and theological certainties in which we can trust. These revolve around Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13: "these three remain: faith, hope and love."



- God is faithful. God promises to go with us through the unknown future. The words "fear not" appear over 150 times in the Bible. We can rely on our faithful God through times of plenty and times of want.
- We are hopeful. Living in the assurance of God's faithfulness, we approach the future in the certain hope that God will make a way. We live our days in hope, not in despair.
- Following the lead of our loving God, we, in turn, love the world that God so loved. God's faithfulness and our hope in God frees us to live loving lives.

"Faithful, Hopeful, Loving" will be our worship theme for Sept. 27 through October 18. Each Sunday we'll hear a member of Hope share their own experience around the related themes. And then on October 25, you'll be invited to share your statement of intent with Hope. Look for more information to arrive by mail.



### Ways to Give

In this period while our worship as a community occurs virtually, our church still needs to meet its financial obligations. And so we ask you to continue contributing financially to Hope. Besides mailing in your offering or dropping it off in the church office, Hope has several ways you can give electronically:

**Through Our Website**— Hope's website address is [www.hopechurhec.com](http://www.hopechurhec.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.

## Endowment Funds at Work

Great things happen when we work together! Our congregation has over \$100,000 invested in the ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust Fund. Those endowment funds allow us to designate where interest income from our investments may be given to fund missions. Each quarter our Endowment Board meets to designate where our funds proceeds may be directed. As per the Endowment Board's bylaws, those allocations are distributed to local and global missions as well as for the needs of our congregation.



Each quarter, approximately \$1100 are available. So far, this year, the funds have been directed to the following:

### First Quarter

- \$350 to Feed My People Food Bank
- \$250 to the Luther Park Building Campaign
- \$300 to ELCA Missions (to fund a clinic for 4 weeks)
- \$200 to Hope's "Fund 13" (to reduce the principle on our loan)

### Second Quarter

- \$350 to ELCA Missions (to fund community vegetable gardens and for fruit trees)
- \$250 for this fall's God's Work – Our Hands service day
- \$250 to the Luther Park Building Campaign
- \$250 to Hope's "Fund 13"



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## Encounter Hope

Its true – the rumors are correct!! Our contemporary worship service Encounter Hope is moving to Thursday nights. Same time, 6:30 pm, and same format with Jim and Les and the Encounter Hope singers.

With some fall programming starting up on Wednesday nights we felt the need to move the service so more people would not miss the opportunity to view the service.

***This big change will start on Thursday, September 3rd. So starting in September Encounter Hope every THURSDAY at 6:30 pm!!***



**ICE is coming!!**

No we do not mean winter is coming but that our middle school youth group is starting up again. We know kids are getting bored at home and are anxious to get to be with their friends so we are offering a safe environment to start up ICE in September. Our first big gathering will be Wednesday September 23 at 6:30 pm. Will be gathering outside for a bon fire, hot dogs, smores. Ga Ga pit and other outside games. Social distancing will be observed. If the weather prevents us from being outside we will meet in fellowship hall. This will be a great time to get to see your friends and spend some quality catch up time. Les will be sending out ICE information to all middle school you in the coming week. ICE is open to all middle school youth and you do not have to be a member of Hope Lutheran church to attend. ICE will continue on the next Wednesday September 30 and meet every other week. The schedule will be in the packet of information Les is sending out. But remember the first two dates:

ICE – In Christ Eternally – Wednesday September 23 and 30 at 6:30 pm Hope Lutheran Church.

Questions talk with Les



**Fall Education At Hope**

We are patiently waiting for the time when we can all be together again for our FUN education offerings at Hope.

You should have received a registration sheet in the mail for our fall Sunday School, Confirmation and Oasis. Please fill these out and return them so we can get an idea of numbers for our classes.

Here is what we can plan for right now:

**Confirmation –Grade 6-8:**

Will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15 starting on September 16th.

**Sunday School—3yrs through 5th Grade:**

We hope to start on Sunday, October 18th.

**Wednesday Night Oasis 4k—5th Grade:**

We hope to start on Wednesday, October 14th.

We will be closely monitoring school openings and the county numbers. We will keep everyone up to date weekly.

Hope to see you SOON!



### Sleep in Heavenly Peace

It has been decided by our SHP team that deliveries will be suspended until at least the first week in October. At that time the SHP team will meet again and evaluate the safety of delivering beds. We ask people to continue to apply for beds on the [shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org) web sight and their names will be place a waiting list. When deliveries resume they will be notified of a delivery date.



### Youth Bed Build

In August we had a youth bed build consisting of three local youth groups, Peace, Good Shepherd and Hope Lutheran. Youth from Hope Lutheran came Friday night and helped sand enough wood for 40 beds. Then on Saturday youth from Good Shepherd and Spirit gathered at Market and Johnson to assemble the 40 beds. Over 30 youth and 12 and 12 adults made this bed build go smooth and productive. The kids had a great experience doing hands on labor and helping 40 kids not having to sleep on the floor in Eau Claire county. A big thank you to Market and Johnson for the use of their building.



### Youth Pop Up Food Pantry

The August Pop Up Food Pantry at Hope Lutheran Church was staffed by youth from our congregation and community, Fifteen youth came to help greet and distribute food to over 50 families on a bright and sunny Monday afternoon. It was a great experience for our youth to be together and do hands on ministry to help families here in Eau Claire and beyond. Our kids where happy to have the opportunity to get out of the house and be with friends in a serving manner. A HUGE thank you to all the youth that came to be apart of the August Pop Up Food Pantry delivery.

## El Salvador Mission of Healing

El Salvador update: The first week in August is the celebration of Salvador del Mundo (Savior of the World) and also the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bishopric of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. Bishop Medardo Gomez was the first and continues to be the only bishop, but he recently turned 75 and will likely retire soon. The entire week is vacation in El Salvador, but the usual festivities were subdued or virtual this year due to the pandemic. Our Salvadoran brothers and sisters struggle with many of the same inconveniences we have here. However, they are much more marginalized in terms of resources than we are. People are still running out of food and unable to leave their communities to shop for necessities. Public transportation, mainly buses, is still shut down. The school year in El Salvador runs from late January to mid-November, so they are in the last half of the academic year, studying from home. For most students the only access to internet is via cell phone. Imagine doing lessons from/on that tiny screen! We usually take suitcases of school supplies to El Salvador in late January. Since we are unable to travel in 2021, we are collecting money to wire there so that leaders in our sister community Los Héroes can purchase supplies. If you're able to donate toward school supplies, please make a check payable to Hope with El Salvador school supplies on the memo line. Thanks to all who have already donated! Hope is included in the thrice weekly (Wed, Fri, Sunday) prayer group Caring Circle for Love that meets via Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp and is led by Pastor Santiago and youth leaders of Heroes in the Faith Lutheran Church. If you have prayer requests for the group, I can pass them along. Thank you for your care and concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ in El Salvador!  
Deb Adams



Divine Savior of the World Monument .  
Google Earth photo

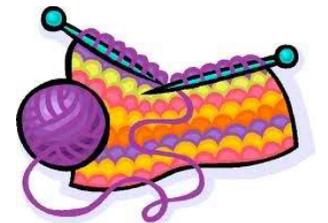
Bishop Gomez leads the traditional march for peace, justice or other humanities theme in a "normal" August. Pastor Santiago is behind him on his right



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### The Knitters are Back!

September already! That means it is time to get together and knit/crochet, or any other kind of needle work. We will meet in Olson Hall the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us on 09/05. Bring a friend.



### Quilting At Hope!

The quilters will also be meeting every Tuesday at 9:00am starting September 8th. Anyone is welcome to join and they practice social distancing. Please bring a mask to wear.

**Hope's Happenings**  
**HOPE'S YOUTH HAPPENINGS**



**Women's Book Club**

The Women's Book Club reading list continues! Enjoy these titles with us:

- September 2020 - *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger
- October 2020 - *Chasing Fireflies* by Charles Martin
- November 2020 - *Grand Opening* by Jon Hassler
- December 2020 - Reader's Choice
- January 2021 - *Necessary Lies* by Diane Chamberlain

We will plan to meet the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm - either by a Zoom conference meeting or in person at Hope, when possible. Anyone that would like to join our meetings virtually, please email Bridgit Mazuk at [bmazuk@gmail.com](mailto:bmazuk@gmail.com) to obtain the login information.



**DRIVE THRU GRILLED PORK LOIN DINNER**

October 22, from 5 - 6:30 pm  
Tickets \$10 - advanced purchase please  
Call 715-832-1414  
Menu - 1/3-pound grilled pork loin  
Grilled Bacon Wrapped Turkey Bites  
Cheesy Hash Brown Potatoes



**Feed my People on Thursdays**

A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers who come every Thursday morning to the feed my people food bank to help sort and package food. We average 12 to 15 people every Thursday but we always have room for more!! There are at least two pop up food deliveries every Friday in Eau Claire so the need is great for volunteers on Thursday to get the food sorted and packaged. We practice social distancing and wear masks and gloves. It's a lot of fun and the time goes soooo fast. We meet at 10 and are always done by noon.

If interested please give Les a call by Thursday at 9 so we can get some numbers of volunteers to Feed my People so they can assign jobs.

**Maintenance Person Wanted**

Hope is looking for a maintenance person to work about 10 hours per week. This job would be strictly fixing and maintaining things in our building. Please contact the church office if you have interest. Thanks!



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## Hope's Happenings

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COVID and COMMUNITY TABLE. Volunteers Are Welcomed!!!

Due to legitimate health concerns and wanting to be super cautious, many Community Table volunteers have chosen to opt out, for the time being, as long as Covid 19 is present in our community. This is true not only of the volunteers from Hope Lutheran and Immanuel Lutheran, but of most churches and community organizations who so faithfully support the mission of The Community Table.

Being fully aware of the anxiety and cautiousness we humans have during this pandemic, Community Table---in its effort to “keep on keepin’ on” providing a basic nutritious meal daily for its guests---has instituted wise protocols for its day-to-day operations. All meals now are served in to-go boxes and handed out at the main door by staff, only. NO ONE is

allowed inside the building except staff and volunteers...maximum 6 volunteers per shift (First shift: meal prep; Second shift: meal servers.)

Masks are required as are latex gloves when handling food that won't be cooked. When doing the meal preparation, the 6 volunteers are spread out in the spacious, well-ventilated kitchen. It is still possible to do visiting! Stainless steel utility tables are always wiped down with bleach solution.

Pat Soderlund, Lewis Titus, and I have represented Hope on the 4th WEDNESDAY of each month since April. We would like to assure you that IF you're seeking an opportunity, now and then, to serve in a safe and gratifying volunteer ministry...COMMUNITY TABLE FITS THE DESCRIPTION! Providing a nutritious noon meal once a month for 130 or more fellow humans is GOD'S WORK VIA OUR HANDS! And...it's amazingly good quality food!

Each of us has to be who we are. And, we must be cautious and comfortable doing any kind of volunteer service in this time. Having said that, if you happen to be considering doing some volunteer service in these Fall months, please consider Community Table. No need to feel that it has to be a monthly commitment, either. Choose one or more 4TH WEDNESDAYS to come and check out TCT! Please feel free to ask questions of Pat (715-450-9181), Lewis (715-514-0170), or me, Roger Churness. (715-720-9085). We'd love to share our experiences with you!!

***THEN...if and when you're willing to give it a trial run... use the SIGNUP GENIUS link below to chose a 4th Wednesday in one or more of the months ahead to do PREP. Next, check the SIGN UP BOX and you'll see a SUBMIT & SIGN UP window at bottom of your screen. Click on it and fill in name and email & phone. Then, click on SIGN UP NOW window and you've finished. Peggy Blomenberg from Immanuel (kitchen supervisor) will know who's working the PREP SHIFT for that particular Wednesday. ONLY 6 are allowed. Time: 9-11:30 AM***

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4bafaf2fa4fc1-thecommunity>





# Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## COVID 19 Stimulus Check Appeal for ministries of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Friends in Christ:

Over the past few months our lives have changed dramatically. Daily routines have been disrupted, new challenges have arisen. In spite of Covid 19, the ministry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin continues to be impactful, making a difference in the world for Jesus' sake. I am grateful for your generous prayerful and financial support of the work that we do together. **I invite you to join me and our synod council in continuing to support the synod's ministry with a special gift.** Perhaps you received a COVID stimulus check. For many this check was a blessing, a needed relief for those who had lost income. However, if you are able, I invite you to consider making a gift from those funds to support essential synod ministries. Consider these opportunities:

### Give a gift to your home congregation

### Give a gift that will keep on giving by donating to the

Synod Endowment Fund <http://nswwi.org/endowment-fund>

### Give to the ongoing work of the NWSWI <http://nswwi.org/giving>

Give to the synod's general fund

Give to our companion synod in Malawi

Give to our synod's newest Latino/a ministry, Neighbor to Neighbor

### Give directly to one of our synod's ministries

Bible Camps: Luther Park, Luther Point, Wapogasset, Amnicon

Lutheran Campus Ministries: UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, UW-River Falls

### As a Synod, we are making a difference for Jesus' sake

The synod's capital campaign, endowment fund and staff helped congregations upgrade technology and provided assistance as nearly every congregation in the synod went to worship and meetings on line during the pandemic.

The synod ministers provided additional education, support, encouragement, and resources for both worship and faith formation to pastors, deacons, SAMS and congregations since March.

The synod has provided financial support to the Lutheran church in Malawi to help with flood relief and pastor's salaries during the pandemic.

The synod's justice team has been meeting and working on video resources on racial, gender, environmental and hunger justice issues. The synod is launching a NEW Latinx racial justice ministry called Neighbor to Neighbor that will focus on connecting with our American Latinx neighbors.

The Northwest Synod awarded small ELCA COVID 19 grants to our synod's Bible Camps and Lutheran Campus Ministries hit hard by loss of income during the pandemic.

Thank you for your faithful partnership in ministry in the past! I invite you to join me and the members of the Northwest Wisconsin Synod Council in making a special gift to support the synod that will benefit the ministries of every congregation in NW Wisconsin as we move forward together in God's mission for the sake of the world.

**Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2*



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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!**