



Hope Lutheran Church

June/July 2021—A Year Abounding In Hope

August 2021

www.hopechurchec.com

Gathered Worship in August

There are five fabulous Sundays in August! Here's what's happening:

- **August 1** – We bid a bittersweet farewell to Gary Polden, our Director of Music. Our worship will be filled with music, we'll bless Gary with Godspeed, and we'll gather in Olson Hall for refreshment.
- **August 8 and 15**– We worship God in word and sacrament. We continue including hymns from the congregation's request list for our songs.
- **August 22** – Today we recognize the 19th anniversary of Rachel's Place. We also celebrate the baptism of Lucas Martinson.
- **August 29** – This morning our praise team will be leading us in song.



God Speed Gary!

Our Director of Music, Gary Polden, has announced his well-earned retirement. His last Sunday will be on August 1. Plan to help us celebrate Gary, thank him for his years of service, and give him a blessing for the future. Our worship that day will include music from our choir and the bells as well as Gary's favorite hymns.

Following worship, join us in Olson Hall for a special reception. As Gary is a proud Norwegian-American, the reception will feature Norwegian heritage baked goods and other delicacies.

Discover Hope

"Discover Hope" is a one-session class designed to introduce new people to our congregation's mission and ministries. Our next "Discover Hope" will be held on Sunday, August 29 after the conclusion of the worship service (10:15-11:45). If you're interested in becoming a member of Hope, please contact Pastor Mary or the church office.



Dear Friends,

The following story is a parable for the church and its mission: A small seacoast village was located near a rocky peninsula. During stormy weather, the point was especially perilous to ships and caused several wrecks.

One day the people of the village decided that they should build a lifesaving station on the rocky point. They did, and they organized a schedule to keep vigil. Soon they were saving lives! Their fame traveled far and wide. People in other seaside communities visited them to see how they could create stations in their own villages.

After a while, the little community decided that, since they were spending so much time at the rescue station, they should make it more comfortable. They painted the walls and brought in rugs and chairs and tables. With the improvements, the rescue station became a popular gathering place for its members. Although lifesaving was still their primary mission, they were becoming more focused on their gatherings.

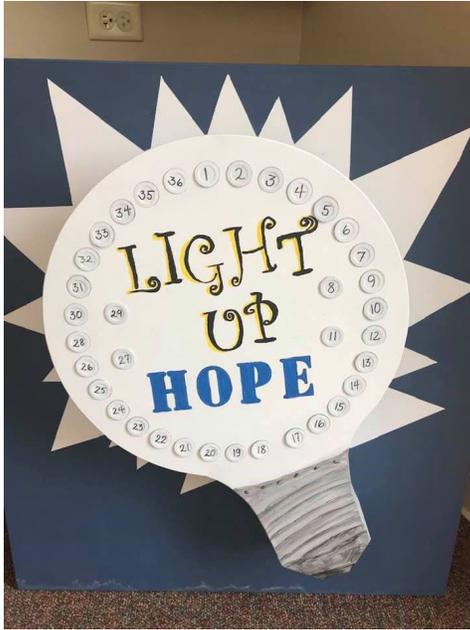
One night there was a very severe storm. Several ships were tossed on the rocky point. After all of the sailors had been rescued and fed and given dry clothing, the small life station was a total mess! Mud and soggy debris were everywhere. It was decided that in the future, sailors should be shuttled to the small basement room and not into the main clubhouse.

As time progressed, many members became less willing to go out in the frigid sea for life saving missions. The rescue missions were hindering their normal club activities. A division emerged among the members. Those that felt lifesaving was still their primary mission were voted down. The majority said that if they wanted to participate in rescue missions, they could start up their own life station down the coastline, which they did. Eventually, those remaining members of the first life station realized it would be much more convenient if they had a clubhouse in the village closer their homes. So they abandoned the life station and rented a hall in town for their gatherings.

Friends, Christ's church is CALLED OUT in mission. Let us remain true to our calling!

Peace and all good to you, my friends!
Pastor Mary

Hope's Happenings



Sanctuary Light Project

The lighting in our sanctuary has been in need of attention for several years. We've been waiting for dimmable LED lights of the necessary wattage to become available. Hip, hip, hurray, they finally are!

The plan is to replace the bulbs in each of our 36 sanctuary fixtures. One very strong bulb will be pointed downwards while three smaller wattage bulbs will be pointed upwards towards the ceiling. This arrangement will greatly increase the lighting in the pews (as well as eliminate the yellow color) and also create a blanket of light on the ceiling. A couple of demo lights are in place to help you get an idea of how the entire space will eventually be. You can ask one of the church staff members to point out the refitted lights to you.

The total cost of the project, including materials and labor is approximately \$11,500, or about \$300 per fixture. We invite you to make a contribution or sponsor a light for our project. Please indicate your gift to the "Sanctuary Lighting Project." We've already received over \$1000 in gifts so we are off to a good start!



Fall Education

It's time! Sunday School in the fall with Rally Day on Sunday, September 12th. Please register as soon as you can so we can put together our classes for our teachers. I am excited to say that our wonderful Sunday Morning team is all coming back this year for your kids. Thank you Mark and Vicki Knutson, Liz Christman and Breanna Winsand.

Wednesday Night Classes for K– 5th Grade are scheduled to start on Wednesday, September 22. We would love it if you could sign up as soon as possible so we can get our classes in order for teachers. We are in need of wonderful Hope People to teach on Wednesday Nights, contact Ann Miloszewicz if this is YOU or if you have any questions.

Confirmation (Grades 6, 7 and 8) will begin with Orientation Night on Wednesday, September 15th.

Registrations can be found on our website, in the Gathering Area or in the church office.

Welcome Back to Faith Formation.....we really missed you!

God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 19, save the date! God's Work Our Hands is an annual volunteer extravaganza for our ELCA congregations in Eau Claire. Many opportunities for service to our greater community will be coordinated as we work side by side with our sisters and brothers in faith from other congregations. It's a way that we can be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and also to bear witness through our actions to the people of greater Eau Claire. Look for more information in early September.

Bike Trail Cleanup

The Airport Neighborhood Association does a monthly cleanup of the Chippewa Bike Trail from Melby Street to Eddy Lane. The next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, August 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you would like to help out, you can park at the intersection of Anderson Drive and Delbert Road to meet up with the other volunteers from the neighborhood. They have safety vests and gloves, but you can also bring your own if you have them.



Feed My People

A very loyal group of people meet every Thursday morning at 10 am at the Feed My People Food Bank Building to help package and assemble food for food pantry distributions. Their labor of love last till noon. We are always looking for more volunteers to be a part of this great team. We have stand up and sit down jobs with lots of great conversation. If interested talk to Les or just show up at door number 17 Thursday mornings at 10am.



SHP

We continue to fill bed requests on a weekly bases. The build in July was cancelled due to very high lumber costs but the team is working on a late August early September bed build. If you know of anyone in need of Bed please have them go to aspsbeds.org to request a bed. Questions talk to Les.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross is experiencing an extreme shortage of blood products. Hope is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, August 24 from Noon to 6:00 p.m. in Olson Hall. They do take walk-in's but it's helpful if you register online at the Red Cross' website: www.redcrossblood.org. Once there, here's what you do:

1. Type in our zip code: 54703
2. Look at the list of blood drives on August 24.
3. Select the available time you'd like to give. If you don't already have an account with them, you can create one.



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:

August 2021 - *While Paris Slept* by Ruth Druart

September 2021 - *Those Who Wish Me Dead* by Michael Koryta

October 2021 - *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn

We will plan to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month (August 16th) at 6:30 pm at Church.



“Hope to Eat”

Our new ministry HOPE TO EAT will be meeting on Monday August 23 at the Lake Hallie Golf course. We will meet

at 5:30. Dinner will be off the menu and each party will pay for their own meals. This is the third month we have been meeting and the turnouts have been great. Just a good time to get together to socialize and share life. Anyone is invited. You don't have to be a member of Hope Church to Attend.



Lay School of Ministry

Our Synod has held a Lay School of Ministry since 1992. The two-year course offers an in-depth study of theology and scriptures to interested laity. The Lay School meets monthly at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls on a Friday evening and Saturday morning. The curriculum involves lectures on Biblical Studies, Theology/Church History, Worship, and Spiritual Formation. If you would like to know more about the Lay School, check out their website at www.layschoolofministry.org or talk to Pastor Mary.



Youth Group

Our next big Youth Gathering will be Wednesday night August 18th from 6-7:30pm. It will be a part of our big Family Fun night here at Hope Lutheran Church. There will be food and plenty of different games for all ages. More details coming as the date gets closer



Worship Technology Team – Your Help Is Needed!

We need your help! On Sunday mornings we need some new volunteers to help with the technological aspects of our worship. These include forwarding the slide deck of our projected PowerPoint, monitoring the sound system, and helping with

the cameras for streaming our service on Facebook. Training will be provided so that you will succeed. Please contact the church office if you can help.

Streaming Sunday Worship

We will continue to stream our Sunday 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! Hope's worship is streamed live on Sundays via our Facebook page. You can also find services posted on Hope's YouTube channel. If you go to the main page of YouTube and type in "Hope Lutheran Church Eau Claire" you will see a link to our page which includes our videos. You can also click on the red "subscribe" to receive notifications of new publications.



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



School Supplies are once again being collected by the Board of Outreach for the kids at Sam Davey whether they are in the classroom or at home. Such items needed:

- Crayons/Pencils/Markers-washable & regular
- Highlighters
- Crayons - 24 count boxes
- Loose-leaf paper -wide lined
- Composition Notebooks -Not spiral notebooks
- Glue Sticks
- Small glue bottle
- Scissors - small blunt style and regular
- Resealable plastic bags-sandwich, quart, gallon
- Pencils

Anything else you think students might need!!!

There will be a box labeled School Supplies in the Gathering Area and on Sunday Morning Communion there will be a box in the parking lot. Thank you & please be generous!

The Board of Outreach

Save the Date

Tuesday, August 17, 2021
New Venue

River Prairie Center in Altoona

18th Annual

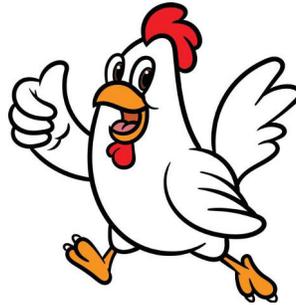


REGISTRATION: 5:00PM

HIKE: 6:00PM

Register @ www.familypromisecv.org

The HIKE FOR THE HOMELESS is sponsored by Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley with proceeds benefiting the Beacon House and related programs of Family Promise.



**"Round Up" Chicken dinner
and Fun**

**Wednesday, September 8th
5:00pm – 7:00pm**

WE ARE BACK! Join the fun and good food at the 5th Annual Round Up Chicken Dinner.

Plans are in the works! We Need You! Can you volunteer To help with food prep, kitchen help and serving? This Event takes a village and we would love for you to get Involved and help us out!

Please call Ann at 715-832-1414 or stop in the office And let us know if you can help!

Update on Lidixe Montoya

Since graduating from Luther Seminary with a Master's Degree in Leadership and Innovation, Lidixe Montoya has been the new mission developer for our synod's Neighbor to Neighbor (Vecino a Vecino) ministry. This program ministers to the Latinx community in the Chippewa Valley and also reaches out to ELCA congregations to raise awareness to racism and to increase diversity in our communities.

Lidixe has been in the USA on a student visa. As she neared the end of her studies in 2020, our synod applied for a R1 Religious Workers Visa on Lidixe's behalf. Typically, this process would take about 6-8 months. However, the pandemic has more than doubled the processing time for visas. The synod's immigration attorney estimates that Lidixe's visa will be processed in early 2022.

Meanwhile, her student visa expired on June 1, 2021. Because of this, Lidixe is unable to work and cannot earn a salary. The synod has arranged for two individuals to serve as interim ministers in Lidixe's absence. However, because Lidixe can't work, she doesn't have any means to provide for her family. Although she can't earn a salary, she can accept grants or gifts.

The synod estimates Lidixe will need approximately \$30,000 to bridge her over until her visa is cleared. The ELCA has provided a \$10,000 grant and our synod was able to provide an additional \$5000. That leaves an additional \$15,000 that the synod is hoping to raise from congregational giving.

Our Hope community has been partners with Lidixe for seven years. We invite you to prayerfully consider if you would like to make a gift to help support her through this very unusual set of circumstances. If you make your gifts to Hope, we will send on your gifts to the synod office.

Ghana Presentation

Les is back from his trip to Ghana Africa. Please join him Sunday, August 8th following worship for a slide presentation from his trip. Terah and Sadick are so appreciative of all that this community of Hope has done for them. Les can show you how YOU have helped them better themselves each day.



Les is looking for APPLES! We need apples to make applesauce for some of the upcoming fundraising events. Les and crew can also pick if needed. Keep us in mind if you have apple trees.

Hope's Happenings

August 2021 Hope's Happenings

Our Days for Girls team has been quiet this summer, but we delivered about 45 kits to the Muths, who took them to El Salvador in late July. I'll be gone most of September, so we will gather to get organized and begin sewing again on October 14 at 9 AM in Olson Hall. Anyone wanting to participate or just see what goes on, please come and join us. In the meantime, if you see good deals on girls' underwear, sizes 10, 12 or 14, feel free to purchase them for donation. Right now we have enough components to assemble about 200 kits, but we have almost no underwear. That means we need 400+ pairs of undies. Dark colors in cotton or cotton/poly are the best for hiding stains, but we will dye any white or light ones that come in the packages. Bikini undies don't work very well with the kit components. There will be a laundry basket for donated undies in the Gathering Area starting in September.

The virtual Mission of Healing continues. The theme for July was respiratory health, and for August it's stress and mental health, led mostly by the Salvadoran psychological trauma team. Many people still suffer from the trauma of the Civil War, which ended in 1992 and in which 75,000 civilians were killed and many more displaced. We are in the process of planning for 2022, realizing that the Salvadoran team has done a great job of continuing the Family Wellness Fairs in our absence.

Thank you as always for your generous support of the Mission of Healing and for praying for Los Héroes and the people of El Salvador.

Bendiciones, Deb Adams



W.O.W. is our Senior group, 55 or older, but we don't exclude anyone who want 's to join in our fellowship!

Next W.O.W. Lunch in September

Join us for the next W.O.W. lunch on Friday, September 10th.

We will meet in Olson Hall at 11:30 with lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, amish noodle salad, potato chips and an ice cream sundae.

A sing along with Jim Newman will keep us entertained along with a slide presentation of LE's recent trip to Ghana Africa.

Watch for sign ups later in August!



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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!