



Hope Lutheran Church

May 2021—A Year Abounding In Hope

May 2021

www.hopechurchec.com

Dear Friends,

Are you tired? I am! This has been one astounding year-plus we've been through! Crisis and controversy have both come at us in overdrive. Let's take a look at what's happened:

- A global pandemic which has claimed over 3 million lives world-wide, sickened so many more, rocked our economies and turned our lives upside down
- Endured a highly charged election last fall
- Witnessed an attack on our nation's capitol
- Viewed repeated scenes of racial violence towards brown and black people as well as Asians, leading to a current of unrest, protest and riotous responses to these incidents
- Sickened by an increasing number of bloody mass shootings across our nation



Is it any wonder we're tired? So what does this mean for us? Twenty or thirty years from now, how will this moment be remembered?

This isn't the first time our nation has undergone great upheaval. Looking back at our history, we see other periods when we faced intense ordeal: The Civil War, the Great Depression, two World Wars. These events left an indelible mark on the people who endured them and defined us as a nation. I believe that this period we are experiencing right now will have a similar effect on us.

Biblically, my thoughts turn to Romans chapter five. St. Paul addressed times of ordeal and how our faith informs us:

“And not only that, but we boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

Friends, as people of faith, may we never lose sight of the hope that sustains us. God is at work through all things, working towards good. As God's people, abounding in HOPE and empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we be agents of grace and peace. As we endure the events of this time, may our character reflect the hope to lead us into a brighter tomorrow.

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

Gathered Worship in May

Starting on May 16th, we will return to gathered worship, praise the Lord! As we begin, worshipers will need to wear masks and maintain social distancing. Here is what will be happening:



- **May 16** – In addition to being our first Sunday back to gathered worship, we'll also lift up those Hope members who are graduating seniors from High School.
- **May 23** – We celebrate Pentecost Sunday. Remember to wear red! Our sanctuary will be adorned by red geraniums (See the related article about ordering red geraniums). Following worship, our Outreach Board will be distributing their famous Caramel Rolls (see the related article about caramel rolls).
- **May 30** – On Holy Trinity Sunday we reflect on the mystery of the divine three-in-one. Also, as the Sunday before Memorial Day, we will give thanks to the veterans who have served our country.



Drive Up Communion – May 2 & 9

Weather permitting, you can swing by the front of the church on May 2 and 9 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.

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.



Congratulations Class of 2021!

We are so excited for this wonderful group of seniors and wish them the best as they move on to the next stage of their life.

Please join us on Sunday, May 16th as we celebrate these young people during worship. We look forward to hearing their future plans.



Congratulations Graduates:

Emma Eddy, Nicole Franson, Tyler Geroux, Kyle Greenlund, Matthew Johnson, Chad Kron, Alisha LaBonne, Chloe Pecha, Carolyn Rettke, Elliott Scott, Arianna Smith, Logan Sommer, Logan Stolt, Jenny LaPage



Spaghetti Dinner - Take Out Meal Wednesday, May 12

Please join us for a take out spaghetti supper. All the proceeds will go to the kids attending LUTHER PARK this summer. For just \$6.00 you can get spaghetti with sauce, breadsticks and a salad with Italian dressing.

Pick up here at Hope anytime between 5:00pm and 6:00pm at door 8 on the Starr Ave Side.

Tickets can be purchased in the church office or by calling us at 715-832-1414.

This is a great night to let us do the cooking for your family and support some great kids!

Confirmation and ICE Wrap – up

A huge game extravaganza wrapped up the ICE and confirmation season on Wednesday April 21. The fellowship hall was the place to be for the Ga-Ga Pit and our new 9 Square game. The youth room was the place for Tenzie and carpet ball. A taco bar provided energy for the participants to make it through the fun filled night.

There will be several summer events and service opportunities for our ICE youth and details of those events will be mailed out and published in upcoming news letters.



**Encounter
Hope**

Please continue to tune in on Thursday nights at 6:30 pm for Encounter Hope worship services. We will continue to stream the services on Thursday night through out the summer. As fall approaches we will look at possibilities for a live in house Encounter Hope worship service. Stay turned for more details this summer on that possibility.

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:

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 (May 17th) at 6:30 pm at Church in the lower level Parish Hall or outside in the yard (weather permitting).

Volunteers Needed

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

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.



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

Sleep In Heavenly Peace Update

Our Eau Claire chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is back in business!! We are now currently taking orders for families in need of beds for children ages 2 through 16. If you know of anyone in need of a bed please have them go in line to SHPbeds.org and click on request bed. We have beds built and delivery teams ready to make sure no child sleeps on the floor.

Our next SHP bed build will be Friday and Saturday July 16th and 17th. Volunteers will be needed and details and signup will appear in June.

Caramel Rolls I can smell the aroma already !!!

Rumor has it that the Board of Outreach will be having Caramel Roll Sunday on May 23rd. It will be handled differently than in the past. It will be an order ahead of time event only. The Caramel Rolls will be sold in packs of two, with or without pecans. Each pack will be sold at a cost of \$5.00, you can always give more :)

Orders can be called into the office or dropped off on or before Sunday, May 16th. This will be a "drive up" event only, similar to the Potato Pancake event. More details to come.



The proceeds will be designated to the Luther Park Rejoicing Campaign.

Ghana Giving Tree

In July Les will be traveling to Ghana Africa to visit Terah and Sadick, the two young men we have helped support here at Hope Lutheran Church. Many people have been asking what they could buy to help the boys out that Les could take with him. Starting Sunday May 16th there will be a Ghana giving tree in the gathering area of the church. On this tree there will be colored cards with items that could be purchased for Les to take to Ghana. Such things as bed sheets, bath towels, dish towels, and clothing items will be on these cards. Anyone who would like to purchase an item can take a card off the tree and purchase it and return it to the church or get them to Les by June 20th. Cash is also appreciated and Les will purchase items for you.



ASP Reserve Fund

Due to COVID-19, last year's youth trip through the Appalachian Service Project was cancelled. Some funds had already been raised for that trip. In March, the Board of Education met with the Youth Committee to discuss what should happen to those funds. They decided to divide the funds into three principle funds:

- Sponsor a Youth Bed Build this Summer – ASP is all about service through building projects. While we are still affected by COVID-19 this year, we can provide a local youth service event involving construction skills to youth from Hope and some other area congregations. The Sleep in Heavenly Peace youth bed build will be held in July. More information on the event will come in the future. Hope is contributing \$3000 towards the build. The other congregations will be contributing to the build as well.
- Scholarship Reserve – The funds raised for ASP trips also provided scholarships for high school seniors. The decision was made to place \$2000 in a scholarship reserve, which will provide \$500 scholarships for the coming four years.
- Youth Enrichment Fund – The remaining \$3472 is placed in a youth enrichment fund. This fund will help to kick start youth trips in the future, reducing the cost for families to participate.

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.



Vacation Bible School

This event is FREE this year for Hope Kids. We have had a member step forward to pay for anyone that wants to go to VBS!

VBS will be held July 26-29th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Luther Park counselors 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.



ChurchArt Online | www.churchart.com

Geraniums



Please help us decorate the church for Pentecost and then enjoy your plants at home all summer long. These are 4 inch geraniums, one plant per small pot.



These may be picked up after worship on May 23rd.

Cost is \$6.00 each. Last date to order is May 14. (ONLY 50 plants are available for order)

Name _____

No. of plants _____

Total \$ amount _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY SEASON

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Summary of our Synod Assembly

Last year, our Synod cancelled the annual synod assembly due to COVID-19 restrictions. This year's meeting was held virtually via Zoom conference on April 15 and 17. The synod staff did a fantastic job figuring out all of the ins and outs of holding a meeting involving over 350 participants. I was impressed by how smoothly the meeting proceeded.

Hope's delegates were Pastor Mary, Deb Adams, Al Mazuk and Sue Tietz.

The assembly's theme was "Justice and Joy." The theme was based on Proverbs 21:15, "When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous." Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson also made note of a quote from Cornel West: "Justice is what love looks like in public." We love our neighbors by living justly.

As fitting for the theme, the assembly business contained several resolutions centering around justice issues. They included:

- **Care of Creation** – calling on congregations to practice energy conservation and consider use of non-renewable resources; also to lift up a Season of Creation this fall
- **Racial Justice** – all rostered leaders participate in Racial Justice/Anti-Racism training over the next two years; congregations take time every year to address racism and implicit bias
- **Hunger Ministry** – congregations take time every year to consider hunger issues and support local feeding ministries; also setting aside one Sunday every year to reflect on hunger; that within our synod's zip codes, \$1,000,000 will be given to support ELCA World Hunger over the next 2 years
- **Education on LGBTQIA+** - that at least 25% of our synod congregations will discuss the issues surrounding LGBTQIA+ persons and how the church might interact with them.
- **Gender Equity** – that training materials be provided for congregations regarding equality in compensation as well as anti-sexual harassment

One of the highlights of every synod assembly includes lifting up those clergy who are marking a milestone anniversary of their ordination. This year includes our very own **Rev. Roger Churness**, who was ordained 50 years ago in July 1971. Congratulations, Roger!

STAFF CHANGES

Staff Transitions

Les Munnik joined our staff in August 2018 as our Director of Youth Ministries. In addition to his responsibilities as our youth minister, Les has also shared his many other skills with us, including assisting with the coordination of worship, organizing service opportunities and coordinating fellowship events. His job has expanded with these other responsibilities. Les is at a stage in his life when he would like to cut back on his work load. As a result, Les will be letting go of his Youth Ministry duties.

In addition, Ann Miloszewicz has indicated a willingness to let go of her responsibilities for Children's Ministries. This will allow her to focus on administrative duties.

With these changes in mind, the Personnel Committee has posted a position for a full time Director of Youth and Family Ministries. With a full time position we hope to attract candidates who can give a focused and comprehensive attention towards our ministries to families with both younger children and youth. The job position is posted on our church website and is also available in the church office. If you know of any persons who might be interested or who has the skills for this position, please tell them about it!

Les has agreed to remain in his current position until a new Director of Youth and Family Ministries can join our staff. After that, he will continue to work a couple of days a week as a Director of Church Life. His new responsibilities will include assisting with the coordination of congregational worship, coordinating volunteer service opportunities and planning periodic fellowship events.



I want to start by thanking you all for the prayers, cards and phone calls following Bob's fall on February 28. As of this writing, he has been discharged from all therapies, had a normal head CT scan and is doing most of his normal activities. We are thankful and reminded of how fleeting and quickly-changing life can be.

El Salvador Update:

In El Salvador, the virtual Mission of Healing continues. The theme for April was nutrition, and Linda Muth found and made some very entertaining and informative videos. Here is one with the theme Eat the Rainbow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3qOxYaHv2o>. If you understand a little Spanish, you'll understand Linda, who made this. She makes soup out of "garbage" – very creative! At this writing, she is working on completing the packets for May, which are distributed to the Lutheran pastors at the beginning of the month. The themes for May are domestic violence (aimed at information and resources for victims, mostly women) and bullying (aimed at teaching children to recognize and resist bullying). If you would like to see any of the specific resources we are sharing with our Salvadoran partners as well as All Peoples' Church in Milwaukee, please let me know.

For a slide show of people using some of the resources we're providing, follow this link to the Mission of Healing in Action video. There's no Spanish until the end, and you may be able to figure out most of those words. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbiCGqY-jyl>. The photos were taken by church leaders or Linda Muth during the personal hygiene teaching in January.

Students of all ages in El Salvador returned to school after Easter for the first time since November, 2019. Although they don't have the same access to vaccines as we do here in the US, the focus has been on vaccinating teachers. The students were very excited to be returning to school as were their parents or at home helpers.

As you probably know, Heroes in the Faith Lutheran Church as well as the community Los Héroes celebrated their 25th anniversary on March 24 (also the anniversary of the 1980 assassination of Saint Oscar Romero). The celebration started at dawn and continued throughout the day. If you haven't already watched the video, it's posted on the Hope web site under the Outreach/projects/25 Years in the Struggle tab. The video and translation are by Tim Muth. The cross in these photos is the same one carried up the hill by Pastor Santiago and war refugees in 1996 as the land was claimed for the community and the church.



Photo by
Linda Muth

Heroes in the Faith Lutheran Church, years 2000 and 2021

Thank you as always for your thoughts, prayers and financial support for this partnership! Deb Adams

AMMPARO

Update Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity

“The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:34

The Chippewa Valley AMMPARO group has been given an opportunity to accompany migrant children in two different families. The first is a 6 member family from Honduras who are currently living in Altoona with a relative. The living situation is not good, however, and a group of community members recently met via Zoom to learn about the situation and seek ways to help. The most urgent need is housing, and hopefully that will be solved by the time you read this. The children are ages 4, 5, 8 and a newborn. In cooperation/partnership with the Chippewa Valley Bridge Builders (CVBB), we will try to support this family as they adjust to life in a completely new climate and culture.

If you would like to donate money to the AMMPARO fund to help this family or other minors who need assistance, please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church (3214 Golf Rd, Eau Claire, 54701) with AMMPARO on the memo line. A separate account has been set up by Immanuel for these funds. To donate household items, there may be a separate Sign Up Genius, but currently we're coordinating with CVBB as they await an immigrant family currently in a detention center in Texas.

The Chippewa Valley Bridge Builders, an ecumenical coalition of faith-based organizations and community members working together to sponsor an asylum-seeking immigrant family, is collecting furniture and household items to furnish a two-bedroom apartment. The rented apartment will be prepared for a family who is expected to arrive here around May 1.

A “Sign Up Genius” (an on-line sign-up form) has been set up for donors to sign up to provide new or like-new items such as beds, dressers, dining set, sofa, living room chairs, end tables, lamps, cookware, utensils, dishes, and towels. A list with quantities is at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4CABAC28A4F49-household1>. If you are not comfortable using an on-line sign-up form, contact either Deb Adams (715-559-9888; debrahadams65@gmail.com) or Ray Koch (715-225-5907; rk9561@charter.net). Please check to see what is still needed as you read this and sign up for what you are able to provide. Coordinators will contact donors to arrange collection of their items. Pickup options are available.

Both these families have successfully passed their Credible Fear interviews and are entered into the asylum process, meaning they are here legally. Thank you for helping them feel welcome as they adjust to living here while awaiting their Immigration court hearings.

ART FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

2021 Chippewa Valley

Community Postcard Project



Get a postcard

Make, buy, or ask us for a **blank 4"x6" postcard**. Use card stock or thin cardboard, or email cvpostcard@gmail.com for free blank cards.



Choose a question

Choose a question from this flyer to respond to on your postcard with drawings, words, shapes, colors, or a collage. **Stick figures are welcome!**



Work Together

This is meant to be a **shared art project** with a friend, family member, or neighbor. Work together or ask them to add to what you started. Cooperate with one or more people, as often as you like!



Once you make it, mail it or drop it off!
Deadline June 1, 2021



Questions

- What can I do to make the Chippewa Valley a place where people of color feel more appreciated?
- What can I do to connect with someone from a race or culture other than mine?
- How can I overcome a prejudice I have about people of a certain group?
- What skills or strengths can I use or develop to help create racial justice?
- What would the Chippewa Valley look like if people of all races and cultures were welcomed with justice, compassion, and appreciation?



Mail or drop off your postcard

MAIL

930 Galloway St.
Mailbox #4
Eau Claire, WI 54703

DROP OFF

JONAH
505 S Dewey St
Suite 204
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Look for the Postcard Project Showcase around the Chippewa Valley. Collages of postcards will be in windows of business, churches, and other locations starting in June.

Supporters



a project of

INTERFAITH ACTION
for RACIAL JUSTICE

Details for the project at www.tinyurl.com/CVpostcard



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

Current Occupant or

Phone
 715.832.1414

Website
www.hopechurchec.com

E-mail
office@hopechurchec.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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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!