



A Ray of Hope

Monthly Newsletter of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 17166, Minneapolis, MN 55417, www.hopempls.org
Ministers of the Gospel: *The Baptized 92 years in ministry 1928—2020*

Volume 90 Number 12

Making Christ Known through the Spirit of Hope

December 2020



Advent increases our

Hope

and hope does not disappoint

Sundays in Advent

With Advent starting on Sunday, November 29, we will be focusing on the theme "*Hope Does Not Disappoint*", a theme shared by our siblings in Christ at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church. Each week will focus on a different aspect of Romans 5:3-5 and how the theme is reflected in our Advent texts. Holy Communion will be part of worship each Sunday during the Advent season.

Following worship during Advent, we will have a short time of "Hope Fellowship" and then at 11am we will join members of Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church for a time of joint fellowship as we build relationships with each other. There is a separate Zoom link for our joint fellowship times:

Advent Joint Fellowship with Lake Nokomis Lutheran, Sundays 11am

<https://zoom.us/j/99027471160?pwd=QndGUkF5RThuVW5tRXJOQkZDUHB2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 990 2747 1160 Passcode: 215789

Wednesdays in Advent

Beginning Wednesday, December 2 we will gather on Zoom for Midweek Advent Worship.

Worship will begin at 6:30pm. Before worship we will have meditative music and images that begin around 6:20pm to help us focus our hearts and minds as we prepare for worship. Each service will have some hymns and scripture as well as opportunities to share our personal responses to thematic questions for the week.

Join us for this time of worship as we anticipate the coming of Jesus with hope that does not disappoint.

Advent Wednesday Worship, December 2, 9, 16, 23, pre-service music begins at 6:20pm, Worship begins at 6:30pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83230146884?pwd=WklTcWl1M2pvdzllWmVFc0p6Sm9QQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 3014 6884 Passcode: 245554

Christmas Eve Worship – Thursday, December 24, 4:00pm

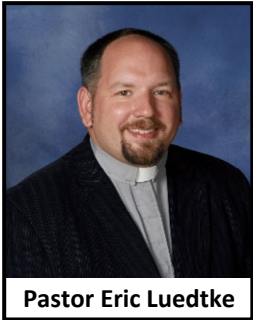
Join us for Christmas Eve worship on Zoom. We'll gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus in hymns and scripture, and yes, candlelight singing of Silent Night (provide your own candle in your home). Sure, it will be different than we're used to, but the circumstances of Jesus' birth were not quite what we might have expected either.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81880243428?pwd=UUVhcWZVc3VDV2dob0hzWS9nVHhxQT09>

Meeting ID: 818 8024 3428 Passcode: 629653



Joy To The World! *Pastor Eric Luedtke*



Pastor Eric Luedtke

It might seem like 2020 is hardly the year to be singing loudly the words of “Joy to the World” but as I reflect on the year, as

Christian I honestly can’t imagine a better hymn to belt out at every opportunity.

I’m sure both Doug Morton and I have extolled you with stories of how Joy to the World was once listed as a Christmas hymn but in 2006, the editors of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (our hymnal) saw fit to categorize it as an Advent hymn. Maybe if there were a category for *Proleptic* hymns it would fit fine there. *Prolepsis* being the term brought into theological conversation by Wolfhart Pannenberg to define the “now and not yet” of the reign of God.

As Christians we recognize that we live in this unusual time in human history where Jesus has come and lived on earth, doing the earthly work we read about in the Bible but we are also anticipating the return of

Jesus to, as we say in the Apostle’s Creed, “judge the living and dead.” And I think that proleptic reality has been palpable in our daily lives throughout 2020 – this knowledge of who we are, where we’ve been, and what the world means to us, but also an anticipation of what is to come, the promise of “better days” ahead of us.

After our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 22, Emmy Almqvist phrased beautifully the reality that we, the people of Hope Lutheran Church, are caught in a moment where we are sad, mourning the passing of what has been, but also look forward to what will be. As Emmy said, “I can recall the excitement and anticipation we had in preparing to build Hope’s sanctuary, and I look forward to being able to stay connected to my friends at Hope as we move to Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church.”

As your pastor, it is my hope and prayer that you will continue to look forward with excitement and anticipation to where God is leading you. I trust that this Baptismal journey we are on, and I’ve been fortunate to be part of these past

two-and-a-half years, is led by the Holy Spirit – the very same Spirit who led the Israelites out of Pharaoh’s hand to the Promised Land, who guided David to rule justly, and who led Mary and Joseph safely to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus.

As we enter the season of Advent, we will have the opportunity to reflect on our lives as we consider the words of Romans 5, “... *but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us.*” I look forward to spending this month of December with you in midweek worship and Sunday mornings, hearing your stories and praying about our hopes for the year to come, trusting that our hopes rest in the very God who is present with us now just as God has been present with us through the days leading up to now and will be present with us for all of our days to come. That knowledge allows me to proudly sing:

JOY TO THE WORLD!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carol Farnham
- 12 Rich Donnelly
Dave Fernandez
- 13 Pastor Eric Luedtke
- 14 Alvie Gieseke
- 16 Karen Carlson
- 18 Clair Brenna
Jacki Just
- 29 Jan Nunn

Year End Giving to Hope

As we move toward consolidation of membership with Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church and legally dissolving Hope, Council has requested that all financial giving to Hope Lutheran Church be sent to....

Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 17166
Minneapolis, MN 55417

....no later than Friday, December 25 so that we can close Hope’s financial books by the end of 2020. Any gifts received after this time will be kindly returned to the giver. If you are planning a year end gift to Hope, please plan accordingly.



THANK YOU!

Dear Hope Meals On Wheels Volunteers,
As you know we have completed our last meal deliveries as Hope volunteers. For South Minneapolis Meals On Wheels and for myself, I give you heartfelt thanks for your years of faithful service. No group could be more willing, dependable and good spirited. I will miss greeting you at the dock.

As we move forward, we can continue to deliver meals through our new congregations or as community volunteers. It makes a difference that matters.

Thanks, peace, God bless us, every one.
Tom Overton

Dear Hope Lutheran Members,
Thanks so much for providing our club with such an ideal meeting place for so many years.
Wishing the best for your congregation.
Best regards, *Bill Cedarleaf*
Minnesota Decoy and Wildlife Carving Club

Dear Nimble Thimble Quilters,
Families with refugee status arrive every day with just a suitcase per person and hearts full of hop. During these very challenging times, your generous and timely 2020 donation of 6 hand-sewn quilts welcome those feeling persecution around the globe into new lives of freedom, hope and opportunity here in Minnesota.

Kathryn Berger
Volunteer & Outreach Specialist: Refugee Services
Minnesota Council of Churches

Hope Lutheran Timeline

Thursday, December 10 – Council Meeting
Agenda to be determined

Friday, December 25 – Final Date to receive donations as Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 27 – Final Worship Service (via Zoom) of Hope Lutheran Church

Monday, December 28 – Termination of membership of Hope Lutheran Church

Thursday, December 31 – Final Day of employment for Hope Staff
(*Tina Raasch, Mark Hedman, Eric Luedtke*)

Sunday, January 3 – First worship with combined Hope – Lake Nokomis Lutheran Membership



Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Make a donation of Gift Cards or Cash... any amount.

Mail to: Sponsor A Family MN
PO Box 582793
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2793.

We are focusing on **Target, Walmart, Aldi** and **Cub.**

Donation deadline December 4.

An Invitation from Lake Nokomis Lutheran

As we continue to move toward combining membership with Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, you are invited to sign-up for the Lake Nokomis Lutheran eNews. It will be delivered to your email inbox on Thursday afternoons and offers information about the activities happening at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church. If you would like to sign-up for the eNewsletter use this link:

<https://www.lakenokomischurch.org/enews-signup.html> and fill-out the basic information. You can also access the link by visiting the Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church website www.lakenokomischurch.org and selecting the "Contact Us" drop down and clicking on "Enews Signup."



Sunday Bible Study with Doug Morton:

You can connect on Zoom at 9am Sundays with friends from Hope for a reflection on the texts, Bible history, and a few stories and bad jokes.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85407734036?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85407734036?pwd=ZmZhT2NIT2JiU29zanhoYXZnVFRjdz09)

[pwd=ZmZhT2NIT2JiU29zanhoYXZnVFRjdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85407734036?pwd=ZmZhT2NIT2JiU29zanhoYXZnVFRjdz09)

Meeting ID: 854 0773 4036 Password: 670260

Sunday Worship: You can access the Sunday worship service (Pastor Eric generally opens the meeting around 9:40am) using this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/753234610?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/753234610?pwd=WTVQa3ZqMGdMQ3FkbUJjWjZKQTZfZz09)

[pwd=WTVQa3ZqMGdMQ3FkbUJjWjZKQTZfZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/753234610?pwd=WTVQa3ZqMGdMQ3FkbUJjWjZKQTZfZz09)

Meeting ID: 753234610 Password: 220503

To prepare for worship you can access the worship bulletin here <http://hopempls.org/news>

For those who aren't able to join us live on Zoom, we will post a video link after the end of these worship experiences at our YouTube Channel...

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA5348BXs2NiqrOU-CTxZmg)

[UCA5348BXs2NiqrOU-CTxZmg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA5348BXs2NiqrOU-CTxZmg)

Men's Breakfast Group Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 7:00am

Join Zoom Meeting at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84408903109?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84408903109?pwd=dHcvczBRT2dHdWhjVzFra2FJYmkvUT09)

[pwd=dHcvczBRT2dHdWhjVzFra2FJYmkvUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84408903109?pwd=dHcvczBRT2dHdWhjVzFra2FJYmkvUT09)

Women's Group Happy Hour

Friday December 4 6:00 or 6:30pm

Deb Christensen will email all of you with the Zoom Meeting login and time.

Sail Class *Stay Active & Independent for Life*

The SAIL classes continue to be on Zoom. All are welcome to join. We concentrate on aerobics, strength, balance and flexibility. We meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 11 a.m.

If you would like to join us, please call (612) 729-0357 or email Bunny Anderson at erbun@aol.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINI-MINUTES November 5, 2020

The following motions were made, seconded and approved regarding money in Flow Thru and Special Funds: the funds in the Operation Christmas Child (Flow Thru) account (\$91.97) and the Thrivent Choice Dollars (Special Fund - \$388) be designated for Sponsor a Family: Getsemani (Flow Thru) account (\$1029.70) will be designated for the Multi Church initiative with distribution to Lake Nokomis Lutheran: funds in Global Missions (Special Fund - \$1132.13) will be given as a gift to Children's Haven International.

Report from Listening to the Future Team: With the approval from all 3 congregations (Lake Nokomis LC, Living Table UCC and Spirit of St. Stephens) this initiative is moving forward with the hiring of an architect to do the final remodeling plans. A small group is working on selecting the contractor with April 1, 2021 the approximate date for the beginning of construction. They are estimating 4-6 months for completion of the project. The 3-church initiative now has a lawyer that is working on setting up the corporation that will manage the church campus. There will also be a board of directors made up of 3 members from each church with staggering terms.

Pastor Eric presented the Resolutions of the Congregation Council to:

- Recommend Suspension of Activities; and to Terminate and Transfer Membership
- Adopt a Plan of Distribution
- Recommend Dissolution of the Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA Corporation
- Hold a Special Meeting of the Congregation

Motion to accept the Resolutions as presented was seconded and approved.

There will be a special meeting of the congregation on November 22, 2020, to discuss and enact the Resolutions. We will also ask for 4 or 5 volunteers to be on the dissolution team. Mary Peterson and Clair Brenna volunteered.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020.



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7a Men's Breakfast on Zoom 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom	2 Advent Worship 6:20p on Zoom	3 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom	4	5
6 Advent II 9a Bible Study on Zoom 10a Hope Worship on Zoom	7	8 7a Men's Breakfast on Zoom 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom	9 Advent Worship 6:20p on Zoom	10 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom 5:45p Executive Committee 7:00 pm Church Council	11	12
13 Advent III 9a Bible Study on Zoom 10a Hope Worship on Zoom	14	15 7a Men's Breakfast on Zoom 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom	16 Advent Worship 6:20p on Zoom	17 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom	18	19
20 Advent IV 9a Bible Study on Zoom 10a Hope Worship on Zoom	21	22 7a Men's Breakfast on Zoom 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom	23 Advent Worship 6:20p on Zoom	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00p Candlelight Worship on Zoom	25 CHRISTMAS 	26
27 9a Bible Study on Zoom 10a Last Hope Worship on Zoom	28	29 7a Men's Breakfast on Zoom 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom	30	31 11a Sail Exercise Class on Zoom		



Hope Lutheran Church Contact Persons

PASTOR Eric Luedtke pastor@hopempls.org	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Tina Raasch admin@hopempls.org secretary@hopempls.org
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE Doug Morton home (612) 729-6637	COUNCIL PRESIDENT Dorian Thompson home (952) 891-2164
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Mark Hedman	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Ginny Olson home (612) 729-5132 cgolson@earthlink.net

2020 Church Council

President	Dorian Thompson	Finance	Dave Fernandez
Vice President	Deb Christensen	Pastoral/Social Ministry	Mary Peterson
Secretary	Dianne Kaatz	Property	Charlie Olson
Treasurer	Clair Brenna	Recreation/Fellowship	Wade Gibbons
Financial Secretary	Dave Fernandez	Stewardship	Ginny Olson
Business Mgt	Dorian Thompson	Worship/Music	Eileen DePoe
Education	Carol Farnham	Youth	Open
Evangelism	Open		




Reconciling in Christ Welcome Statement

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

Hope Lutheran Church welcomes all people as children of God. We are called to be one body with many members. This body is inclusive of diversity in race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, gender, physical or cognitive ability, sexual orientation and gender identities. In practicing the intentional hospitality of Jesus, we will make room in our hearts, our homes and our congregation for all neighbors.

We seek to follow the great commandment
“Love your neighbor as yourself”. (Mark 12:31).

All Are Welcome Here!



EARLY DAY CARE
 Michaëlle Flaten
 3637 23rd Ave S
 Minneapolis MN 55407
 (612) 724-8825
Over 35 years experience
 Michaëlle Flaten, member of Hope

Thank you, Michaëlle!!

Please notify us regarding Pastoral Visits, Hospitals, and Care Centers

If you or a family member would like to have a visit from the pastor during a hospital stay, please notify Pastor Eric. If you or a family member are moved to a care center, please notify Tina at admin@hopempls.org or Pastor Eric at pastor@hopempls.org.

We want to stay in contact with you and continue our ministry of presence and prayer. Due to privacy rules, hospital and other care facilities are not allowed to share that information when we call.

Are you in need of prayer?

To request prayers, phone or send them by email to Pastor Eric Luedtke—pastor@hopempls.org or contact Ginny Olson at (612) 729-5132 or cgolson@earthlink.net.

Please indicate if you would also like to be included in public prayer during worship.

