

# February 2024



Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

## Words from Pastor Fran

*Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness. Psalm 145:3 (NLT)*

We are nearing the Lenten season! A season of remembering who we are, but more importantly, remembering who the Lord is. We offer our thanks and praise for Jesus!

This year, we will be working our way through a study titled, *Let My People Go*. This series is based on Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing's book titled, *Deliver Us: God's Rescue Story in Exodus*.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024, and so does our emphasis on Moses' book *Exodus*. We've heard the story so many times. Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times (Exodus 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3) and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times!

Throughout the book of Exodus God reveals who He is through His absence and His presence, through His silence and His speech, through His wrath and His mercy, and through His judgment and His amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of *Jesus*. (See pg. 3 for a complete listing of each week's theme through Lent.)

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Our mission highlight for this month is POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach). **Minnesota POBLO Mission**

Minnesota's foreign-born population has increased dramatically in recent years, with an influx of immigrants from Somalia, Laos, and India, among other countries. Nearly [100,000 refugees](#) have come to Minnesota over the past three decades, and the state is home to the largest population of Somali Muslims in the U.S. As of 2011, more than [7%](#) of the state's population was foreign born, and in 2006, Minnesota became the first U.S. state to elect [a Muslim representative to Congress](#). [80%](#) of the foreign-born population is concentrated in the Twin Cities region, where POBLO's Minnesota missionaries are based.

In Minnesota, POBLO missionaries and volunteers are involved in missions and community engagement through various efforts. Volunteers teach English, sewing, and computer skills to immigrants and refugees at three International Friendship Centers. Citizenship classes are also offered. Missionaries, together with a group of volunteers, are connecting people from many countries to Bible study and worship as they share the Gospel message. They also provide food, clothing, and furniture to refugees in need. All people need Jesus! (poblo.org)

Contact Shari Schulz (Shari@poblo.org) or the church office to see how you can join us in helping people in Minnesota.

It is a great time to be at Mount Hope! *Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family.*  
Your Friend, Pastor Fran Green

# Activities and Events

## Weekly Events

### Sunday Adult Bible Study

10:45 am in the Library

### Sunday School

10:45-am continues each week through May

### GriefShare

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

Grief Share meets on Monday afternoons from **1:00-3:00pm**. Contact Joy Schneider for information.

### Tuesdays @ Two

Mt. Hope hosts conversation and coffee on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. All are invited to attend.



## Ongoing Events

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

**Children's Message** during the Sunday morning worship service. Also on that day we take a **Noisy Offering** for a specific cause each month! Bring your "noisy" coins that day to drop in the bucket (paper money donations gladly accepted also!) Currently, the offering is going to the new Toddler Room at the Child Care.

### Card Ministry

Take a moment to fill out the March birthday cards in the entryway. Write a little bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mt. Hope who have birthdays in March. We're always one month ahead so when the new month begins, we can start distributing the greetings!

## COLLECTIONS

### Cancelled Stamps

Did you know that you can donate your cancelled stamps for charity? Save your stamps that have their perforations intact, leave at least ¼ inch on each side of the stamp when cutting it from the envelope or postcard. Place your cut cancelled stamps in the labeled bin located on the shelf above the coat rack.

## Prayer Chain Ministry



Dear Mt. Hope Prayer Warriors:  
Have you noticed it is getting harder to find some positive or good news lately. Well be of good cheer. God placed you and me in in this world for such a time as this! We are here on assignment and not

by accident. We can be the salt and light needed for our times! As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to shine no matter what the circumstances and no matter how bad it gets. Hang on a little longer, because it is the darkest before the dawn. So let us keep on praying.

And speaking of prayer, each month we provide for you a daily prayer topic list. You can find it located at the information table outside of the office or at a number of other places throughout the church.

You are always welcome to let us know if you, a loved one, or a friend might be in need of prayer and we will include it in our prayers (just let us know if it would be private (our prayer chain only) or included in public prayers during worship.

And, we rejoice when prayers are answered! If there is no longer a need to be included in our prayers, also please let us know.

Send your prayer requests to me at [fratwocor489@aol.com](mailto:fratwocor489@aol.com) or telephone at 952-707-1881.

*Blessings, Fran Wallin*



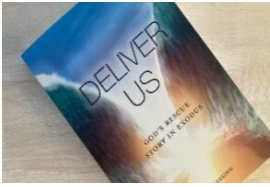
## Book Club

Book Club will be Feb 9 at 1:30pm at Marilyn Nelson's. I hope for a good turnout. RSVP Marilyn with regrets.

Two book selections: THE RIDE FOR HER LIFE by Letts and OTHER BELLS FOR US TO RING by Cormier. We gave up on THE SOURCE as too big and too difficult. Nobody liked THE GIVER This utopian turned distopian novel from 1993 struck me as prophetic. Written as a warning it is being used as a progressive blueprint. Would have been fun to discuss.

Happy New Year everyone. Let's resolve to read cheerful books with Christian values-if we can find them.

*Renata*



## Lent Series

The series we will be using for Lent this year is based on Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing's book titled, *Deliver Us: God's Rescue Story in Exodus*. We begin the series on Ash Wednesday when we will gather at 6:30 pm and continue each Wednesday at that same time leading up to Holy Week where we will conclude the series on Easter Sunday

### Ash Wednesday (2/14)

**"Big Things with Small Stuff"** (Ex. 2:1-10)

### Lent One (2/21)

**"How God Changes Us"** (Ex. 3:1-14)

### Lent Two (2/28)

**"Stop Trying and Start Trusting"** (Ex. 14:1-29)

### Lent Three (3/6)

**"Strike the Rock!"** (Ex. 17:1-7)

### Lent Four (3/13)

**"Mine!"** (Ex. 20:1-17)

### Lent Five (3/20)

**"Digging Ourselves into a Hole"** (Ex. 32:1-14)

### **Holy Week**

#### Palm Sunday (3/24)

**"A New Beginning!"** (Ex. 34:1-8)

#### Maundy Thursday (3/28)

**"Access!"** (Exodus 24:1-11)

#### Good Friday (3/29)

**"Agnus Dei"** (Exodus 12:1-13)

#### Easter Sunday (3/31)

**"Against all Odds!"** (Exodus 15:1-18)

We hope to see you each week for this exciting study!

Pastor Fran

## Mitten Tree

If you worshiped in person during December, and into the New Year, you likely noticed our mitten tree was graced with an abundance of donations as follows:

36 pairs of mittens (*the majority hand knit by Marilyn Nelson's brother, Jim*)

6 pairs of gloves • 17 caps • 2 ear muffs • 1 pair fleece lined leggings

At the Women of Hope meeting on Jan. 13, it was decided, out of 5 options offered, that these donations would be delivered to our neighbors "Oasis" housed at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Penn Ave. and Old Shakopee Road. "Oasis for Youth" opens the door to housing, employment, education, and wellness, for youth, ages 16 - 24, who are facing homelessness in the south suburbs of Hennepin County. It is considered a "Drop in Center" and provides basic necessities such as clothing, pantry & hygiene items, meals, access to a shower and laundry, and a safe place to take a nap. May the recipients be blessed by your donations to our mitten tree, and Thank You!



## VEAP Update

Our first delivery to VEAP in 2024, was **68 lbs** on Jan. 11th. Thank you for your continued support, as the need is ongoing.



I attended a **Mission Partner Gathering**, on Sat. Jan. 20th, which was very well attended. VEAP, was founded in 1974, by 13 church bodies, which means this year they are celebrating 50 years of serving the community. A celebration is being planned, to be held in VEAP's parking lot, with food trucks, etc. so I will keep you posted, when details become available.

March is always the **"BIG Food & Fund Drive "** with the dates beginning Feb. 26th thru Apr. 6th. The goal this year is to receive 100,000 pounds of food, and \$300,000.

In 2023: **25,000 individuals** were served—with children and seniors high on that list. **6 million pounds of food** was distributed. **2.8 million pounds of fresh produce** was distributed. **215 appointments** are made & provided for each day (permitted to come twice a week). **578 households** were served through their Social Services Dept. (financial assistance lasts 3 months)

Volunteers are always needed, and there are various opportunities from sorting incoming products, to answering phones. To volunteer, you must be 16 years old, and there are mostly flexible hours.

VEAP has laid out a guideline of different items for each month, so I will try to keep us informed of what the item for the month is. **For February they are requesting items for a birthday bag.** You can put together a kit, or just donate various items, such as cake mixes, frosting mixes, candles, paper plates, party napkins, little favors. And as I already mentioned, **March will be the big food drive**, but they will take anything you care to donate, at any time. Keep in mind \$30.00 will feed one person for one month. Following the informational meeting, we received a tour of the facility.

Karen Mueller : *Mission Partner Rep. for Mt. Hope Lutheran Church*



It's February already! The month of Love! It's hard to believe that I have been the Director of the Preschool and Childcare for 5 months already. A lot has been accomplished, but there is much left to do. I want to start by thanking some congregational members who have been continuing to help me in the massive clean-up and organization of the preschool. Renata Melby, Laurel Schaefer, Ina Adams, Linda and Orphah Borgen, Linda Carstens, Corinne Condon, Linda Quittschreiber, and Kathy Sundseth. All of your efforts have meant so much to me and every hour you have spent cleaning and sorting was one less hour that I had to spend. Your help also provided some mental health relief as it can get lonely working alone! Thank you for your help and support! May God bless you, as you have been a blessing!

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed financially to the new Toddler Room. There was \$72.00 collected in the noisy offering the first Sunday of January, the women of Hope donated \$1000.00, and Darlene Wendt and Laurel Schaefer also gave some very generous gifts. We have now raised a total of \$3,000.00 or 30% of our goal! What a blessing! The people of Mt. Hope are so generous and it warms my heart!

Melanie Collins and Barbara Prigge gave notice right before Christmas Vacation and their last days were on January 5. Melanie told me that she wanted to try something different and Barbara is staying home to care for her husband Roger. His health has been deteriorating and it is much harder to take care of his needs than before.

Since Melanie and Barbara both quit, I began teaching every morning, as well as developing the Lesson Plans. The parents have been very pleased with the direction of the preschool and the children really seem to enjoy all the new activities I have prepared for them. I have been taking pictures of the children in the classroom. As I get time, I will develop them, post them in the narthex, and let you see what we are doing.

I have been working with First Children's Finance to try and get a grant for the toddler room, as well as a loan. If we receive a grant, it can be used for equipment and curriculum. The loan is to cover the cost of hiring and employing people until the room generates income. So far, there have been no grants available at this time. Kirsten is working to help me fill out a Business Analysis Worksheet for the possible loan.

We have begun getting calls for the fall and I have a couple of tours set up. I'm not sure how successful I will be getting children for the toddler room without the proper equipment, but I will keep trying. That's why your donations are so important! We need to get toddler-sized and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. I will be working on putting together a board with some of the toys and equipment we will need. Take a look at it. Maybe something will catch your eye and you will feel the urge to purchase that piece of equipment or to put money towards it.

I am interested in setting up an early childhood committee to deal specifically with issues related to the Preschool and Childcare. There are some important jobs to do such as fundraising, marketing, and hiring. If anyone is interested in being on this committee, please contact me. It will definitely be a working committee as we work to provide a high-quality early childhood program for toddlers and preschoolers. One person cannot do all of this alone and I need your help. Thank you.

Richard and I are going to Mexico for the first two full weeks in February. This is an annual event as we own a timeshare in Mexico. We know how important it is to spend quality time away together from the stress of our jobs and we are looking forward to this. Unfortunately, I was not able to find a qualified teacher that I would be comfortable leaving the preschoolers with for two weeks, so we are not holding school for that time. I let the parents know earlier this month and no one has voiced any concerns. When I return, we will be scheduling an Open House to enroll new families for the fall. Please pray that God will send us children and families! And, eventually, new highly qualified, Christian staff!!

Have a peace-filled, healthy February! May God bless each of you!

Wendy Ewald, Director

## Women of Hope

### Items of Note from the January Meeting...

- Items that were hung on the **mitten tree** were donated to The Oasis at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. This community program assists local youth who are homeless or otherwise in need.
- It was decided that a **Fall Harvest Bazaar** will not be held this year. Other projects will be considered for fund raisers and opportunities for fellowship, both internal and involving the community.
- 60lbs. of food was delivered to **VEAP** in early January
- The **collection** of Christian literature and pill bottles have stopped. Thank you to all of you who have donated items in the past!
- Some of the ladies have been helping **clean and organize** preschool materials. There are still areas that can use attention. Check with Wendy if you'd be available to help.
- The Women of Hope voted at their meeting to **donate** \$1,000 to the PreSchool/Child Care ministry for the purchase of some much needed items.
- The next **Women of Hope meeting** will be Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

## Women's Valentine's Tea Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10 am

Our speaker, Pati Kachel, a professional storyteller will present "A Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories".

Pati creatively sews together a comforting quilt of several short stories and songs about people whose inspiring lives have added color and texture to her own life. Her listeners will be kept in stitches with these meaningful messages that are sure to warm hearts.

Invite a friend for this fun event!

### Brunch & Program \$10

Tickets for Sale:

Sun., Jan. 28 & Sun., Feb. 4

Questions Call Karen Mueller at 952-881-7887

# February Celebrations!!

## BIRTHDAYS

2/04 Zachary Vogland  
2/04 Emily Lang  
2/09 Kate McMullen  
2/10 Candy Frein  
2/11 Kevin Lang  
2/12 Wyatt Vogland  
2/13 Harriet Buelow  
2/18 Todd Mack  
2/20 Karen Mack  
2/24 Steve Schmidt  
2/26 Cathy Frank  
2/28 Caleb Mack

## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

2/01 Tracie Klug-Melbostad  
2/03 Cory Blauvelt  
2/03 James Froemming  
2/09 Marilyn Nelson  
2/14 Gene Roehrick  
2/21 Hope Berg  
2/23 Janice Elbert

## ANNIVERSARIES

2/06 Dave & Fran Wallin – 45yr



## Serving in February

**Coffee & Coffee Clean up: Darlene Wendt**

**Receptions: Corinne Condon & Darlene Wendt**

**Altar: – Corinne Condon**

**Elders: 2/4 – Al J., 2/11 – Dave S., 2/18 – Dave S., 2/25 – Steve S.**

## Altar Flowers

**February 4** – Karen Mack – In memory of her grandson, Alex

**February 11** – Corinne Condon – In memory of her aunt, Eunice Marose

**February 18** – Al Johnson – In memory of his mom who is celebrating her birthday in heaven

**February 25** – *(open)*



Sponsoring the altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor loved ones. Flowers are often given to mark special life events such as birth and birthdays; anniversary of a wedding, baptism, confirmation; the memory of a loved one; or as a thanksgiving for life's blessings.

The 2024 Altar Flower Sign Up Calendar is up on the bulletin board in the information hallway. Please sign up for a date and place your \$30 check, payable to the Women of Hope, in Karen Mack's mailbox in the information hallway. Karen Mack phone number is 952-831-7428 for any questions you may have.

# February 2024

Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family

## Mount Hope Lutheran Church Preschool and Childcare


3601 W Old Shakopee Rd Bloomington MN 55431

[www.mthopelutheran.org](http://www.mthopelutheran.org)

[church@mthopelutheran.org](mailto:church@mthopelutheran.org)

952 888 5059



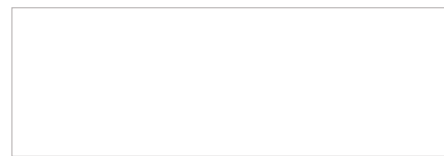
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 10:00am IFC	3
4 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	5 10:00am IFC 1-3:00pm GriefShare	6 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm Girl Scouts 8:00pm AA	7 10:00am IFC	8	9 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club@Realife	10 10:00am Valentine Tea 
PreSchool closed 2/5-2/16						
11 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	12 10:00am IFC 1-3:00pm GriefShare	13 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	Ash Wed. 14 10:00am IFC 6:30pm Lent Service	15 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting	16 10:00am IFC	17
PreSchool closed 2/5-2/16						
18 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	19 10:00am IFC 1-3:00pm GriefShare	20 2:00pm Tues@2 5:30pm Girl Scouts 8:00pm AA <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>Deadline for March News</b></div>	21 10:00am IFC 6:30pm Lent Service	22	23 10:00am IFC	24
25 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	26 10:00am IFC 1-3:00pm GriefShare	27 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	28 10:00am IFC 6:30pm Lent Service	29		

**Mt. Hope Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 1:00pm-5:00pm**

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church  
3601 W Old Shakopee Rd  
Bloomington, MN 55431



Address Service Requested



*This is a monthly publication of Mt. Hope Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Bloomington, MN. Any submissions to the newsletter need to be in the office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Publication is generally around the 25<sup>th</sup>, with the goal of being sent out/available to members by the last Sunday of the month (this can vary, depending on a few factors).*

Other reading material currently available at the church:



- **Feb** MN South District News
- **Jan-Mar** Portals of Prayer
- **Jan/Feb/Mar** Sagacity Senior News
- **Winter** LWML MN South news
- **Winter** Lutheran Women's Quarterly
- **...and more!**

### Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 am In-Person Worship

10:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School

### Services Online at:

**YouTube Channel:** Mount Hope Lutheran Church

**Facebook:** Mount Hope Lutheran Ch, Bloomington, MN

### Mount Hope's Staff

Fran Green	<i>Pastor</i> <a href="mailto:pastor@mthopelutheran.org">pastor@mthopelutheran.org</a>
Wendy Ewald	<i>Childcare/Preschool Director</i> <a href="mailto:mounthope.ps.cc@gmail.com">mounthope.ps.cc@gmail.com</a>
Hiring for	<i>Music Director</i>
Allen Petersen	<i>Administrative Assistant</i> <a href="mailto:church@mthopelutheran.org">church@mthopelutheran.org</a>
Sam Killam	<i>Custodian</i> <a href="mailto:skillam06@yahoo.com">skillam06@yahoo.com</a>