

January 2024



Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN

Words from Pastor Fran

Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. Ephesians 4:23-24 NLT

Ah, the new! Did you get some good new things for Christmas? It can be such an enjoyable experience to get something new. And what about beginning a New Year?! Do you look forward to any “new beginnings” in 2024?

We spent much time during our Advent and Christmas season talking about “waiting”, with a deeper dive into the book of *1 Thessalonians*, which is all about waiting. Our waiting during Advent is in remembering Jesus taking on flesh and dwelling among us. We celebrate God sending Jesus to live and die to redeem lost sinners. We are grateful for the resurrection and Jesus ruling and reigning at the right hand of God the Father. Yes, Advent and Christmas are a time to remember and celebrate.

And yet, our waiting continues...As we looked at *1 Thessalonians*, we were reminded that we are eagerly anticipating the second Advent. Even as Jesus rules now, we know that He will return. We eagerly anticipate Jesus’ return when He will once and for all time judge the living and the dead and make all things new. *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Revelation 21:1-2 NLT*

That is why we are able to *Rejoice Evermore*, as Paul encourages us. Let us all live in everlasting Joy because of what Jesus accomplished after His first advent, as we are filled with the promise of the Helper, the Advocate, the One who could not come if Jesus did not go away. And so we are grateful for the promised Holy Spirit at work in our lives, filling us with Joy and Peace that only He can bring to us while we wait for Jesus’ return.

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. Ezekiel 36:26-27 NLT

We stand at the door of 2024 filled with joy because of our Lord Jesus. And we are grateful for this faith family, Mount Hope Lutheran Church. We are grateful for the work He has given us to do while we wait. We love and serve our Lord here as we love our neighbors as we wait.

Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:16 NLT

A personal note: Thank you so very much for all the Christmas cards, gifts, and your generous cash gift from the Mount Hope family. We are so blessed to be serving with all of you! Mount Hope, what a wonderful place, ***Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family.***

Serving together,
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 is taking a brief break for the holidays and will start up again on Monday, January 15th. Their meeting time will shift slightly with the new session: Mondays from **1:00-3:00pm**.

Tuesdays at Two

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



January/Ongoing Events

1st 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 February birthday cards in the entryway. Write a little bible verse, add a birthday greeting and bless those at Mt. Hope who have birthdays in February.

2024 Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes for 2024 are now available in the information hallway or if you would like them sent to you please call the church office at 952-888-5059.

Portals of Prayer

The January-March edition is now available!

Prayer Chain Ministry

As we enter the New Year, some thoughts to ponder: God **IS** good, even when life doesn't seem to be. So...



Before you sleep, **PRAY**.

When you wake up, **PRAY**.

When life gets hard, **PRAY**.

When you're happy, **PRAY**.

If you are unsure, **PRAY**.

God **IS** always with us.

Thank you for faithfully standing with us and may our Lord continue to richly bless you in this New Year!

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 or telephone at 952-707-1881.

Fran Wallin

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.

Christian Reading Materials

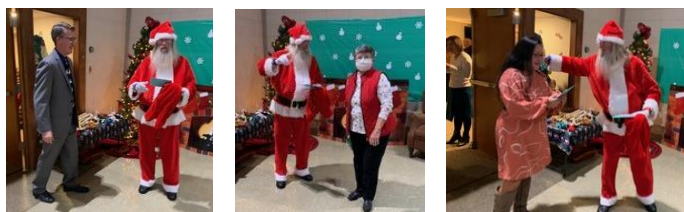
Donate your religious magazines, books and bibles to Africa. Place your donations in the basket above the coat rack by the front door. Thank you!

Women of Hope

What a happy, joyous season as we celebrated our Savior's birth! As the phrase goes it takes a village but our love and service response is it takes a Savior. Many thanks to all the people who went above and beyond to make this holy season so very beautiful at Mt. Hope.



WoH Christmas Reception on Dec. 17 was a time to celebrate Christmas and share fellowship with our church family.



Preparing the Christmas Eve bags for the children attending the Christmas Eve Worship Service.



MITTEN TREE

Thank you to those who gave to the Mitten Tree! We will have a detailed update on what was collected and where the items went to in the February newsletter.

NEXT MEETING...

The next Women of Hope meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13th at 10:00am. We will be sharing devotions, food, and fellowship, as well as getting updated with our Mt. Hope projects and look to the new year for opportunities to serve and get to know our sisters in Christ better while serving at Mt. Hope. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.

See the next page for more info on our annual New Life Family Services collection event this month.



Book Club

The Book Club had their January meeting on the 5th. So, looking ahead, the book club will next meet on February 9th, at 1:30 pm at Marilyn Nelson's (Real Life)

And our new name is FRIDAY BOOK CLUB to give more leeway with holidays, etc... We will try to continue with THE SOURCE but may pick something else and let you know in an email. No matter what, we will always have dessert and a good visit.

Call Renata Melby at 952-881-7160, if you would like more information. And we are still open to suggestions for reads for 2024

Music Director Search



The search continues for a part-time music director to serve our church, providing music leadership for the congregation. Primary responsibilities include planning and leading the music in weekly worship services and for other services, per the church calendar year.

Spread the word, and keep it in your prayers! If you know of someone, they can get a complete job description by contacting Pastor Fran Green at pastor@mthopelutheran.org or 952-888-5059.

Save the Date!

Our Valentine Tea is being planned for Saturday, Feb. 10th at 10:00 am. Back by popular demand will be Pati Kachel, professional story teller, who tells stories that encourage, delight, and inspire. Tickets will be available for \$10.00 on Sunday, Jan. 28th, and Sunday, Feb. 4th. A good time to invite a friend. Watch for more information in the Feb. newsletter.



We are looking to include a few more people as a normal part of our worship services. If you might be interested in reading the Old and New Testament readings on Sunday morning, or in assisting with ushering, greeting, and maybe more, watch for a sign up that will be posted in the coming weeks.

Youngsters News Around Mt. Hope



Happy New Year! We are praying for God's good guidance as we begin this New Year! We have plans to open a New Toddler Room in 2024 and it is very exciting! We pray that God will bless our efforts with some financial help so that we can purchase the necessary materials to open this new room in the fall. We also pray that He would guide a loving, capable caregiver to our doors when the time is right. Finally, we pray that God would guide families to Mt. Hope as they search for care and education for their young children – both toddlers and preschoolers. Please continue to keep Mt. Hope and this ministry in your prayers! He is our only Hope and if it is His good will that our childcare would flourish, it will!

I am happy to report that we have already raised \$1,172 for the toddler room. \$222 was collected in our first two noisy offerings in 2023, \$500 was raised by our Christmas Bake Sale, \$200 was Given by the Women of Hope, and there have been 3 separate donations from congregational members. Things are moving in the right direction! I will be putting up a large "thermometer" in the narthex to help everyone keep track of how our fundraising is going, as well as a list of needed items for the new room. Because toddlers are 16-33 mos., the toys and materials are of a much different nature than those in our preschool rooms. We have to be especially careful of chokables or small parts they can put into their mouths. Tables and chairs need to be much shorter, and a diaper table and cubbies need to be made or purchased.

The preschoolers were blessed by a visit from our church member, **Al Johnson**, on Tuesday, December 19, when they all got to try their hand at being carpenters! Watch for pictures in the narthex as Al and the children are busy at work creating recipe holders from wood for their moms (or dads). Al and the children had a wonderful time! Thank you, Al, for sharing your talents with us!

I have gotten through most of the toys and equipment stored upstairs and in the two rooms not currently in use. The toys are almost all sorted, categorized, washed, sanitized, and put in labeled buckets with lids to keep them clean. There is still some cleaning to be done in the rooms and also a few other easy projects left for anyone willing to do some sorting of educational materials like stamps, letters, and cookie cutters, as well as putting together easy puzzles. All of these things can be done sitting at a table. If you are interested, please contact me and we can set up a time for you to get involved.

Praying that God will bless each of you in 2024 with good health, happiness, love, peace and joy!

Because of Jesus, Wendy Ewald

KIDZ MINISTRY

Did you know that Mt Hope has its own team? That's right, and it is our Sunday School—**Team Jesus**. It is stronger than any NFL or NBA team because our captain and coach is the **Lord of Lords** and **King of Kings**—**Jesus, the Christ**. With Him, we never lose.

This past semester, students studied the Ten Commandments. Through games, crafts, and videos, each commandment was explored and understood to be one of God's Rules for our lives. At the completion of the study, each student had completed an 11x14 size set of the commandment tablets to take home.

As always, thank you for all your support. And, please stop in and look at our new prints of Jesus donated through memorial monies given by Marlys Herman.

Just so you know, we plan to **ROAR into 2024** because **We Are-
Kids in Christ!**



MEN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

An open invitation for all the men of the congregation from Crossview Lutheran:

**"Loving God by Loving Others.
Serving God by Serving Others."**

Join us on January 13th, 9:00 to 10:45 am at the Feed My Starving Children site in Chanhasen. Make a list and invite your friends and family to come along. Our goal is to pack 22,000 meals, enough to feed 60 children for a year.

To register email Dan Battcher at: dtbattcher@gmail.com.



The collection for New Life Family Services will again be held in January 2024. Please place any donated baby clothing, toys, diapers etc. in the playpen in the Narthex. This wonderful organization counsels and assists women with their heartfelt decision to choose life and make plans for the future of their baby.

If you have any questions or would like to assist please contact Corrine Condon at 952-888-7931.



Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, noninvasive and painless health screenings at Mount Hope Lutheran Church on **Monday, January 8, 2024**.

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque) An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>

January Celebrations!!

BIRTHDAYS

1/02 Brady McMullen
1/04 Vicki Johnson-Schmidt
1/06 Max Alan Blauvelt
1/08 Matt Frein
1/10 Marilyn Nelson
1/11 Jenn Schleifer
1/13 James Froemming
1/14 Peggy Maas
1/15 Tammy Green
1/15 Stephanie Hinz
1/19 Dan Adamek
1/19 Zachery Brantner
1/20 Anika Quittschreiber
1/27 Darlene Wendt
1/28 Claire McMullen
1/30 Tracie Klug-Melbostad
1/31 Steve Sundseth

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

1/01 Shirley Favorit
1/09 Linda Carstens
1/10 Kari Peterson
1/11 Lea Fox
1/12 D.J. Fox
1/13 Ed Borgen
1/15 Karen Mueller
1/19 Arlene Schmidt
1/20 Pastor Fran Green
1/28 Drew Adamek
1/29 Ina Adams

ANNIVERSARIES

1/01 Craig & Tricia Regan – 2yr



Serving in January

Coffee & Coffee Clean up: Corrine Condon

Receptions: Betty Schleifer & Darlene Wendt

Altar: January – Sue Hedensten

Altar Flowers

January 7 - Vern and Holly Traetow – In memory of loved ones in heaven

January 14 – The Brantner Family – In celebration of Zachery's 12th birthday

January 21 – Steve Oberlander – In memory of his wife, Fran

January 28 – *(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.

January 2024

Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family

Mount Hope Lutheran Church Preschool and Childcare

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd Bloomington MN 55431

952 888 5059

www.mthopelutheran.org

church@mthopelutheran.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Year's Day 1 OFFICE CLOSED PS CLOSED	2 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	3 10:00am IFC	4	5 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club @Realife	6
7 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	8 8:00am-5:00pm Life Line Screening Event 10:00am IFC	9 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	10 10:00am IFC	11	12 10:00am IFC	13 10:00am Women of Hope
14 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	Martin Luther King Day 15 PS CLOSED 10:00am IFC 1-3pm GriefShare	16 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	17 10:00am IFC	18 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting	19 10:00am IFC	20
21 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	22 <i>National Lutheran Schools Week</i> 10:00am IFC 1-3pm GriefShare	23 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	24 10:00am IFC	25	26 10:00am IFC	27
28 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	29 10:00am IFC 1-3pm GriefShare	30 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	31 10:00am IFC			

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

Deadline for submitting items for the February newsletter is January 20th

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 20th of the month. Publication is generally around the 25th, with the goal of being sent out/available to members by the last Sunday of the previous month.

Other reading material currently available at the church:



- **Jan** MN South District News
- **Jan-Mar** Portals of Prayer
- **Oct/Nov/Dec** 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 *Pastor*
pastor@mthopelutheran.org

Wendy Ewald *Childcare/Preschool Director*
mounthope.ps.cc@gmail.com

Hiring for *Music Director*

Allen Petersen *Administrative Assistant-Media*
church@mthopelutheran.org

Sam Killam *Custodian*
skillam06@yahoo.com

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



Address Service Requested

