

# August 2024



## Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

### *Words from Pastor Fran*

*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*  
*1 Timothy 2:1-3 (NLT)*

As I sit and write this, we are only a few days removed from the assassination attempt on a former president. I'm sure you don't need me to tell you that the great divide in our country seems to only grow wider and with this attempt to take the life of Donald Trump, there doesn't appear to be any way for our nation to come together as one.

Yet, we must remember our Lutheran Theology of Two Kingdoms. James Madison wrote,

*"...What is due to Caesar and what is due God, best promotes the discharge of both obligations."*

Martin Luther wrote, *"church leaders make poor kings and kings make poor bishops"* (Luther's Works, 45:109). Luther recognized, on the basis of Jesus' words in the New Testament, *"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"* (Mark 12:17), that there are two distinct realms.

The state is ruled by reason, and the church is ruled by the Word of God. Both are indeed God's, but He governs them differently. The one is the realm of Law and reason; the other is the Word of God and Gospel. We are citizens of Jesus' Kingdom and we are also citizens of the United States. Although there doesn't seem to be a chance to heal this great divide, our Holy Scriptures instruct us on the path forward.

Did you happen to read the message that our district president Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford sent out with encouragement for all of us?

*As Christian citizens, we are called to a higher standard. We are to love people and use politics, not the other way around. When Christians engage in malicious exchanges in the public square, it only demeans the Christian witness in the eyes of a jaded public. We are to refrain from vehemence, hatred, and any sinful behaviors, digital or otherwise, even as we participate in the political process and engage our civic duty with a good conscious. We are to be salt and light in a world of darkness and animosity (Matt. 5:13-14).*

*As we do, we must remember we are bound to the word of God, not a political party, nor any one candidate. As the Psalmist says, "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation." (Psalm 146:3). Christians recognize that no one political candidate has all the right answers; it's wrong to view anyone in messianic terms, blindly elevating him or her to god-like status.*

*Instead, the Apostle Paul directs us to esteem and pray for rulers and those in high positions, that all members of society may lead a peaceful and quiet life, dignified in every way.*

There is perhaps, no better time to be a follower of Jesus! We live in a world of darkness and animosity, but Jesus empowers us by the Holy Spirit to live for Him, salt and light loving Him above all things and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Our world needs Jesus!

Your Friend,

*Pastor Fran Green*

**ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

Years ago, my husband and I had the good fortune to attend a presentation by the Rev. Richard Wurmbbrand and his wife Sabina. Rev. Wurmbbrand was the founder of *Voice of the Martyrs Ministries*, serving the persecuted church throughout the world. It was during the presentation, that Rev. Wurmbbrand and Sabina shared their experiences as ones persecuted and imprisoned because of their Christian faith. This got me thinking back to what I wrote last month, how Christianity and the Bible are diminished in the eyes of the world today. And yet, how blessed we are in this county to be free to have Bibles and to worship.

It is through the Word that we learn of the Gospel of salvation, grace alone, through faith alone, and the nature of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. But recently, I am reading that there are some groups claiming to be “Christian” who might have a “*different spirit*” (2 Cor 11:4). In fact, there are many groups who call themselves “Christian” who add other writings which they consider *equally authoritative*; or they claim to continue to receive new *revelations* from God; or *both*. For them the Bible is not complete. Allow me to share some examples with you from one such religion:

<b>BIBLICAL JESUS SAYS...</b>	<b>OTHER RELIGION SAYS...</b>
“I have saved you by grace <b>alone</b> .”	“You are saved by grace alone; but only <b>after</b> all
“I <b>am</b> the way.”	“I will <b>show</b> you the way.”
“The Father and I are <b>one</b> .”	“The Father and I have one <b>purpose</b> .”
“I paid your debt. Now you’re set <b>free</b> .”	“I paid your debt. Now you <b>owe</b> me.”
“The gospel is what I have <b>done</b> .”	“The gospel is what you must <b>do</b> .”
“I have gone to prepare a place for you so that	In the end, you will go to a place that is <b>comfortable</b> for you.”

I could go on, but I think you get the point. It might be one word or phrase that is written, but what is presented is a different Biblical Jesus. In fact, they are not even close. Here we see in these contrasting statements that there is a partial reliance on Jesus but a significant reliance on self. There is a rejection of the gospel which results in separation from God.

Christianity, on the other hand, teaches reliance on Jesus – Jesus + Nothing = Everything. This leads to eternal life with Him.

So, as we continue to be His disciples and to witness, we must pray for those not hearing what the Biblical Jesus says, and we must remain faithful to His Truth.

***Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God and Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. (Jude 24-25, NASB) AMEN***

*Blessings!*  
*Fran Wallin*

**Resources:**

Dr. Don Bierle, **Faith Search** International;  
**Truth in Love Ministry**

# Events, Activities & This-n-That

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sunday Adult Bible Study

10:45 am in the Library

### Sunday School

—On hiatus until September—

### GriefShare

GriefShare is on Summer break currently and will begin their next session in the Fall. If you have any questions, contact Joy Schneider.

### Tuesdays @ Two

Mt. Hope hosts conversation and coffee on Tuesdays at **2:00 pm**. All are invited to attend. We usually have some treats too!



## ONGOING EVENTS

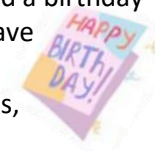
### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

On that day we take a **Noisy Offering** for the Children's Ministry program! Bring your "noisy" coins that day to drop in the bucket (paper money donations gladly accepted also!).

**Children's Message** is on break until September.

### Card Ministry

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



And, if you have been a long time member at Mt. Hope, we should have your birthday on file. If you are not a member and/or somewhat new to our church, we might not have your birth date. We would love to include you in our birthday card greeting program. Just give your name and birth date to Pastor Fran, Kristi Voth or the church office.

### Cancelled Stamps Collection

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.



The next book club meeting will be Friday, August 9th, at Renata's at 1:30pm. Visitors are welcome to see if they enjoy a good book and conversation (and dessert!).

**THE WHISTLING SEASON** by Ivan Doig is a refreshing departure from modern fiction featuring plucky heroines and their oppressors. This book has literary merit and features tough people who don't whine. Hallelujah!

WE NEED NEW MEMBERS so visit us if you are a reader who enjoys books, conversation and food!



The Governing Board is in need of volunteers for a **Nomination Committee**. This committee is responsible for finding candidates to run for the Governing Board elections this September. If anyone has any interest in the committee or being a candidate they can contact a Governing Board member or Pastor Fran.

### PRAYER CHAIN



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.

If you have a personal prayer request, send your prayer requests to me at [fratwocor489@aol.com](mailto:fratwocor489@aol.com) or by telephone at 952-707-1881. *Fran Wallin*



*Just an FYI for members of Mt. Hope, if you happen to notice something that may be in need of repair, or just needs some loving attention, please let the office know and we will pass that along to our facilities crew.*

### UPDATED INFORMATION?

Remember, if you have any new location or contact information, please let the office know. Thank you!

## FROM THE KITCHEN CREW



No need to panic yet...but our treat supply is getting low! Through donations by our wonderful members, we are able to enjoy treats both on Sunday mornings after worship, and at our Tuesdays@2 get-togethers. They don't need to be home made (but those are always yummy!), they can just come your favorite store. You can place your donation in the freezer in the kitchen. Thank you in advance, and we look forward to the continued treats!

Also, another kitchen need is plastic containers (margarine, sour cream, cottage cheese types, etc.). Our supply is almost depleted and we use them for funeral leftovers. In addition, we are missing 2 9x13 Rubbermaid containers with red lids. Those we use for storing cake in for treats. If you have any of these to donate, or you find one of the missing pieces, just drop them off in the kitchen.

## Thursday Morning Bible Class

We are looking at starting up our Thursday A.M. Bible Study again in September with the study of "Together We Believe: A Study of the Apostles' Creed" by Emily Belvery. We will meet Thursday's at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library/Adult Education Room. This will be dependent on the number of people who show interest. So if you are interested in attending, please contact Candy Frein at (952) 250-9826 by August 16<sup>th</sup>.



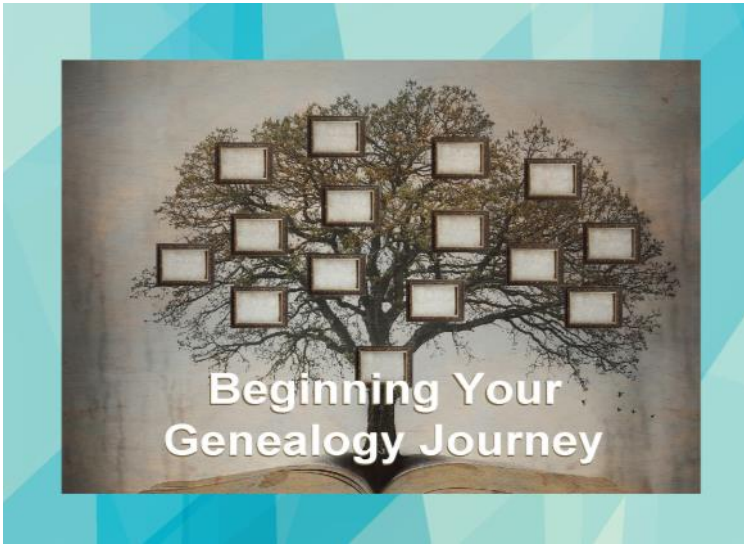
On June 6th Bob Tolzin, David Schleifer, Fran Wallin and Pastor Fran met with some leaders from St. Michaels Lutheran Church. This was an introductory meeting with the goal of trying to find ways our churches can strengthen each other by working together. Below are some notes from the meeting that both churches wanted to share with their respective congregations:

- ⇒ Mount Hope and St. Michael's have been meeting together, along with Redemption and Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Churches, to build relationships and begin talks about what "walking together" in ministry should look like in our current world environment.
- ⇒ Building on the idea of advancing partnership with local LCMS congregations, leaders from Mount Hope and St. Michael's gathered for an initial introduction on June 4th.
- ⇒ This initial introduction was a listening session where two different organizations could better understand respective needs and opportunities for partnership.
- ⇒ All Leaders recognized the importance of clear and transparent communication with their respective churches, which is the reason for this update.

Leaving this initial introduction, leaders agreed to:

- Pray to seek God's wisdom and clarity
- Share this update with each respective organization
- Consider a future session to think together on how these two organizations could start walking alongside each other in greater partnership to advance His kingdom

Our plan is for these leaders to continue to meet. We will continue to share with the congregation the information discussed at these meetings. If you have any questions, please contact one of the individuals listed above. We will also be discussing this topic at our fall Voter's meeting.



## Come to Creekside Community Center for an Introduction to Genealogy!

- Get acquainted with a broad range of information sources
- Learn how to tell trustworthy sources from less reliable sources
- Discuss how to set goals for your own genealogy research

**Note:** This class will not cover genetic genealogy which relies on DNA testing.

**Presented by:**

**[Bloomington Historical Society](#)**

- FREE event for adults ages 50 and above.
- Registration required and accepted until full.
  - Don't delay, Space is limited.
  - Register online at [blm.mn/webtrac](http://blm.mn/webtrac).

For information/questions, contact Creekside Community Center at: 952-563-4944 | MN Relay 711 or [creekside@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:creekside@bloomingtonmn.gov)



- The VEAP featured item for the month of August, is condiments and spices.
- VEAP's " Back to School" drive continues. Backpacks, scientific calculators, & wireless headphones/earbuds are high demand items, and are most challenging for families to purchase on their own. Traditional supplies, like spiral notebooks, crayons and washable markers are needed as well. Please make sure all items are **new**.
- **Our donations to VEAP this summer, have been slowing down, so anything you can donate would be appreciated. Thank you!**

*Karen Mueller, Ministry Partner Rep.*



### OUTDOOR MARKET

Saturdays, June 8 - October 12, 2024

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

1800 W Old Shakopee Rd

(East Lot, Bloomington Civic Plaza)

The Bloomington Farmers Market is a weekly gathering in which farmers, growers and producers, among other assorted food and craft vendors, sell their own products directly to the public, allowing consumers to have a direct relationship with the producer of the item they purchase. The market emphasizes quality and freshness.

# August Celebrations!!

## BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Lyndel Steinborn  
8/2 Karen Isaacs  
8/5 Riyu Brantner  
8/11 Kathy Sundseth  
8/13 Jerry Kuhlman  
8/13 Jonathan Hampton  
8/17 Betty Stennes  
8/17 Butch Caspersen  
8/20 Carol Tolzin  
8/23 Becky Middelstaedt  
8/24 Arnie Berg  
8/26 James Hampton  
8/27 D. J. Fox  
8/28 Hannah Gliten  
8/30 Peggy Martin  
8/31 Kayla Vogland

## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

8/4 Vance Melbostad  
8/8 Elijah Mack  
8/8 Kathleen Adamek  
8/9 Carl Fox  
8/18 David Killam  
8/22 Zeke Green  
8/22 Grayson Schleifer  
8/23 Lyndel Steinborn  
8/24 Silas Green  
8/25 Elizabeth Mack  
8/29 Victoria Frein  
8/30 Peggy Martin

## ANNIVERSARIES

8/4 Wayne & Jessica Schuett – 12yr



## Serving in August

**Coffee/Treats & Clean up:** Karen Mack

**Kitchen/Receptions:** Kirsten Buelow, Karen Mueller

**Altar:** Christina Brantner

**Elders:** 8/4 - Al J., 8/11 - Dave S., 8/18 - Steve S., 8/25 - Al J.

## Altar Flowers

**August 4** – Cory & Christina Brantner—in celebration of Riyu’s 8th birthday

**August 11** – Darlene Wendt—in celebration of great-grandson Logan’s baptism

**August 18** – Marilyn Nelson—in memory of her husband, Conrad

**August 25** – Kathy & Steve Sundseth—in celebration of granddaughter, August’s,  
17th birthday



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 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 opposite the bulletin board. Karen Mack’s phone number is 952-831-7428 for any questions you may have.

**NOTE:** Each month, by the 20th, I send to the office, the next months list of people who have signed up to donate flowers. If, by chance, there is an open spot in the next month and you sign up after the 20th, please let me know, so I don’t miss your name and consequently have no flowers. Thank you.

# August 2024

Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family

## Mount Hope Lutheran Church

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431

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

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

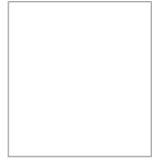
952 888 5059



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:00pm IFC	2 10:00am IFC	3
4 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	5 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	6 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	7 10:00am IFC	8 5:00pm IFC	9 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club @ Renata's	10
11 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	12 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	13 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	14 10:00am IFC	15 5:00pm IFC 6:30pm Governing Board	16 10:00am IFC	17
18 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	19 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	20 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA <b>Deadline for September News</b>	21 10:00am IFC	22 5:00pm IFC	23 10:00am IFC	24
25 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour	26 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC	27 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA	28 10:00am IFC	29 5:00pm IFC	30 10:00am IFC	31

**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 for the newsletter need to be into 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 end of the prior month. It is also available for viewing/download from our website.*

Other reading material currently available at the church:



- **August** MN South District News
- **Jul-Sep** Portals of Prayer
- **Jul/Aug/Sep** Sagacity Senior News
- **Summer** Lutheran Women's Quarterly
- **Summer** LWML MN South news
- **...and more!**

### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

9:30 am In-Person Worship

10:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School (Sep-May)

### **Services Online at:**

**YouTube Channel:** Mount Hope Lutheran Church

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

### **Mount Hope's Staff**

Fran Green

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*Music Director*

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