

July 2024



Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

Words from Pastor Fran

***“Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
All glory to Him both now and forever! Amen”
2 Peter 3:18 (NLT)***



Summer is here! It’s the season of growth in the church, just as it is in our gardens and backyards. Everything is green just like the paraments in church, especially with all the rain we’ve had this year. This is also the season of the church where we focus on growing together in the life of the church, empowered by The Holy Spirit. Our Scripture readings focus on the life of Jesus and the growth of His Church.

More specifically, our readings from the Gospel of *Mark* have been dramatically presenting Jesus to us, His identity, the Son of God. We have seen His incredible power and been reminded, once again, that He came to save sinners. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life! That is His identity, and our identity is in Him. One could say that Jesus, by the power of His Word and the Holy Spirit, is our *Miracle Grow*.

Miracle Grow, the brand of garden products, is much more than “plant food” these days, but I’m guessing that most of us are familiar with the “miracle-like” results that the plant food provides. It truly is *Miracle Grow*. (And let me state, I am not a paid representative of the *Miracle Grow* company.)

But, thinking about our own faith that has grown through the planting of the seeds of God’s Holy Word; the work of God’s Holy Spirit is truly, The *Miracle Grow*! *It is the same with my [word](#). I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Isaiah 55:11 (NLT)*



So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17 (ESV)

Life in the Church includes more than God’s Word. It includes prayer, fellowship, the Lord’s Supper, encouraging and building each other up and these are all vital to all of us in our journeys of faith. But, for this growing summer season, let’s make a commitment to use the *Miracle Grow* of God’s Holy Word. It is a wonderful gift that is so easily neglected in our busy lives. Start each day in [the Word](#), end each day in [the Word](#). Find a time to develop and/or grow in dependence on the Bible.

***Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. John 17:17 (NLT)
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction,
and for training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)***

Miracle Grow! May the Lord bless you and keep you as you spend time in His Word!!

Your Friend,

Pastor Fran Green

The Question?

I don't know about you, but I've noticed lately that people are tending to ask more questions. As I drive and listen to the car radio, callers are asking more questions rather than commenting on the content of the program or what the commentator may have said. And, not always appropriately so. This has made me think back to my days in high school journalism class where we were taught that a good journalist, you know, the one with a "nose for news", seeks to get the answers to the important questions—who, what, where, when, and why—for the story to be written. You reported the facts and did not editorialize.

The more I thought about this, and realizing that in today's world Christianity is thought to be a repressive force by some, even trash, and the Bible is viewed as a means of oppression, I also realized that the history I learned tells a different story.

All this brought to my mind the question—**What if?** You know,

What if I had never said that?
What if I had not bought that dress?
What if I had helped my neighbor more frequently?
What if I had given more to my church?
And on it goes!

And then I thought of this question—**What if the Bible had never been written?** That's a frightening thought. Yet, the more I read in the various venues of today, there are many who wish that were the case.

Looking back into history, we find that people from various backgrounds or positions in life have profited from the Word of God. From Lincoln, Napoleon Bonaparte, John Quincy Adams, to Ronald Reagan and many more, were greatly blessed by the Bible.

Reviewing a book I had read many years ago, let's consider the implications of the question—**What if the Bible had never been written?** There would be no Salvation Army, no Red Cross, no YMCA, virtually few charities, or modern science. Most hospitals were born in the Christian era and literacy and education might have remained the exclusive domain of the elite. And slavery might still be practiced in this country. Further still there would have been no Mother Teresas, no David Livingstones, no Isaac Newtons, no William Wilberforces, no Martin Luthers. The list could go on. But above all, if the Bible had never been written we would be cut off from GOD, groping in darkness and without hope.

Let us not forget that the Bible was written and preserved "that you may know you have eternal life" (**1 John 5:13**). Christ is the key, fitting the Old and New Testaments together. As D. James Kennedy states, these books present the progressive unfolding of Christ in the following manner:

The Law gives the *foundation* for Christ.
History shows the *preparation* for Christ.
Poetry expresses *aspirations* for Christ
Prophecy proclaims the *expectation* of Christ.
The Gospels record the historical *manifestations* of Christ.
Acts relates the *propagation* of Christ.
The Epistles give the *interpretation* of Christ.
Revelation describes the *consummation* of all things in Christ.

Christ is the key. And the Bible has no equal.

To quote Ernest von Dobschutz — "all the libraries in America, numerous as they are, would hardly be large enough to hold all the books which have been inspired by this one little volume."

Yes, the Bible, the book of mankind, is indeed the Book of books.

Soli Deo Gloria! Fran Wallin

Resources:

What if the Bible Had Never Been Written by D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe
The Encyclopedia of Religious Quotations, Mead

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

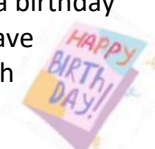
1st Sunday of the Month

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



July Book Club will be at Renata's. Kathy suggested the historical fiction book **THE GIRLS IN NAVY BLUE**. It is partially set in 1918 when for the first time young American women were accepted as members of the US Navy to free up men for fighting WWI. These "yeomanettes" are little known in history.

It is a good read but more fiction than history as it is written from a unconsciously modern feminist viewpoint. Look for unkind portrayals of men, Christians and families. Still, it is an exciting read and full of suspense.

See you on July 12th at 1:30pm All are welcome. RSVP to Renata.



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 or by telephone at 952-707-1881. *Fran Wallin*

PORTALS OF PRAYER



The Jul-Sep Portals of Prayer is now available at the South Information Nook just outside the fellowship hall. And don't forget, we now have available a digest-sized option! Not too small, not too large!

Also available outside the office is the Hope-Full Living devotionals for Jul-Sep.

UPDATED INFORMATION?

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

WOMEN OF HOPE

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17)

- **LADIES NIGHT OUT** About 13 ladies gathered for their Night Out on June 11 and a good time was had.
- **JULY MEAL** There had been plans for a possible fundraiser meal in July, but that has been put on hold.
- **NO FALL BAZAAR** Since this is about the time people start asking, just a reminder that there will NOT be an annual Fall Bazaar. Watch for some other smaller fund raisers though.



- **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Holly & Vern Traetow will once again be organizing the shoebox event. A list will be posted soon on the bulletin board (and in a future newsletter) of needed items. More info on the upcoming event will also be made known at a later date.
- **NEXT MEETING** Our next Women of Hope meeting will be Saturday September 14, 2024 at 10AM. Have a wonderful summer!



The Governing Board is wishing to update the key card distribution list. There is a purple binder on the counter in the office. Please stop by and find your name and write down your card number so we can verify our records. Any cards that are not verified will be deactivated effective Aug 1st.



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.



OUTDOOR PROJECTS



In between rounds of rain, a group of dedicated workers have been taking on some outdoor projects. We want to extend much thanks to Linda Carstens, Jerry Lowe, Karen Mack and Karen Mueller for doing weeding and planting and general clean up around the grounds on the parking lot side of the building. Thanks folks, it looks great!



Another Volunteer Opportunity!

Our picnic table outside is in need of refinishing! You may have noticed that the green paint is peeling off. With all of the rain lately, it may need a little time to dry out first. Then, it will probably need a good sanding before it is refinished. We are open to suggestions: stain and sealer, prime and paint? Let the office know if you might be willing to take this project on. We can buy the supplies if you provide the elbow grease!



Thank you

We received this note of thanks from Pastor Dan:

Dear friends of Mt. Hope,

I just want to sincerely thank everyone for all the cards, gifts, and birthday wishes that were extended for my 75th birthday. My wife and family totally surprised me and I had the best birthday celebration anyone could ever ask for. I was deeply humbled by your kind thoughts and words; blessed beyond comprehension.

Thank you all so much for your continued love and friendship. See you on July 28, when we'll be back for a visit.

God's continued blessings to you all.

Pastor Dan

REV. MARTIN LANGEMO

We recently received an email from David Langemo (former Mt. Hope Associate Music Director) that his father, Rev. Martin Langemo, just had his 4th pacemaker implanted and will now be in an assisted living facility.

David said his dad would love to hear from Mt. Hope members! We have his contact information in the office (goldenrod note on counter) if anyone would like to contact him.



JUNE 9TH BLOOMINGTON LC-MS OUTDOOR WORSHIP

It was a bluebird day on June 9th for our Bloomington 4-church co-op service. It was a blessing to have the churches work together in praise and glory to our Lord! The service was recorded and is available on our Facebook page and also our website.

(Right: Pastor Fran shared the readings of the day with those in attendance.)



- Didn't graduations just happen? Believer it or not, July is VEAP's "Back to School" drive! 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**. I will plan to deliver our donations by July 31.
- **Be reminded: Food and all other donations are appreciated, at an ongoing basis, in addition to the monthly featured item.**

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.

July Celebrations!!

BIRTHDAYS

7/7 Zeke Green
7/8 Cory Brantner
7/9 Sheila Carlson
7/11 Jonathan Moss
7/11 Silas Green
7/13 Victoria Frein
7/14 Connie Fitzgerald
7/16 Carl Fox
7/16 Jerry Buelow
7/28 Grayson Scheifer

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

7/1 Marcy Caspersen
7/2 Tricia Regan
7/11 Bob Tolzin
7/14 Kirsten Melbostad
7/15 Madyson Ford
7/15 Sabrina Ford
7/15 Samarah Ford
7/28 Jerry Buelow
7/?? Dawn Vogland

ANNIVERSARIES

7/6 Josh & Megan Adamek – 5yr
7/14 Dave & Jenn Schleifer – 12yr



Serving in July

Coffee/Treats & Clean up: Eileen Daak

Kitchen/Receptions: Fran Wallin

Altar: Christina Brantner

Elders: 7/7 - Steve S., 7/14 - Al J., 7/21 - Dave S., 7/28 - Steve S.

Altar Flowers

July 7 – Renata Melby—in celebration of the marriage of her grandson, Sam to Mariana

July 14 – #1—Jenn & Dave Schleifer - in celebration of their 12th wedding anniversary

#2—Kirsten Buelow—in celebration of her dad’s 89th birthday

July 21 – Chrys Suby

July 28 – Chrys Suby



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.

July 2024

Where Guests become Friends and Friends become Family

Mount Hope Lutheran Church

3601 W Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431

www.mthopelutheran.org

church@mthopelutheran.org

952 888 5059

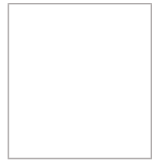


| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|----------|
| | 1 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC | 2 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA | 3 10:00am IFC | 4 Independence Day Office Closed | 5 10:00am IFC | 6 |
| 7 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour | 8 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC | 9 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA | 10 10:00am IFC | 11 5:00pm IFC | 12 10:00am IFC 1:30pm Book Club @ Renata's | 13 |
| 14 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour | 15 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC | 16 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA | 17 10:00am IFC | 18 5:00pm IFC 6:30pm Governing Board (tentative) | 19 10:00am IFC | 20 |
| 21 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour | 22 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC | 23 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA | 24 10:00am IFC | 25 5:00pm IFC | 26 10:00am IFC | 27 |
| 28 9:30am Worship 10:45am Education Hour | 29 10:00am IFC 5:00pm IFC | 30 2:00pm Tues@2 8:00pm AA | 31 10:00am IFC | | | |

**Deadline for
August News**

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 20th of the month. Publication is generally around the 25th, 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:



- **June/July** 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

Pastor

pastor@mthopelutheran.org

Katrina Wessel

Music Director

(contact info to come)

Allen Petersen

Administrative Assistant

church@mthopelutheran.org

Sam Killam

Custodian

skillam06@yahoo.com